

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Rich... How has the oil boom changed the face of the Shetlands? ... and beautiful



Princess Elizabeth of Toro is alive and well in a London flat. She talks to Penny Perlick. An eye... The new computers: machines that 'think' about what they see

... on the ball England's party for the winter cricket tour of Fiji, New Zealand and Pakistan is analysed by John Woodcock. Business is... Part 2 of the Business News series on men making millions

Sinclair profit is £14m

Sinclair Research, Sir Clive Sinclair's pioneering home computer firm, announced a pre-tax profit of £14m for 1982-83. The 65 per cent increase confounds those who expected Sinclair to be hit by the microcomputer price war.

Princess in flying visit

The Princess of Wales returned to London from Balmoral yesterday for a short visit. Buckingham Palace said she would return to Scotland tomorrow.

Teeth clue

The discovery of some teeth means police trying to identify the headless corpse of a woman found in a Devon wood have reduced to three, the possibilities from their missing persons list.

Trial delayed

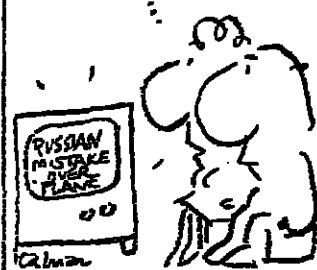
David Martin, whom police were hunting when they shot Mr Stephen Waldorf in January, had his trial postponed for a week.

Gilpin dies

John Gilpin, the former ballet dancer, has died aged 53 while visiting his flat in Bayswater, London with his wife, Princess Antoinette of Monaco. Page 12

Spending cuts

Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, tomorrow begins his task of cutting £2.5m from ministers' budgets for next year. Page 2



Durie through

Britain's two survivors in the US tennis singles championships met with mixed fortunes in New York. Joanna Durie reached the quarter-finals, but John Lloyd went out. Page 21

Banks face 'sweeping changes'

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent. Mr Timothy Bevan, chairman of Barclays, yesterday forecast sweeping changes in personal customer banking because of competition and the march of technology.

Ford chief ends all cut-price deals

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent. Mr Sam Toy, chairman of Ford UK, sprang a major surprise last night by announcing an immediate end to all incentive and bonus payments to dealers. He challenged other companies to follow Ford's lead and end the bitter discount war of the past two years.

Right 'coup' shifts TUC

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Blackpool. The trade union movement yesterday set itself on a course of reform and moderate leadership amid charges that a "political coup" had been successfully staged by right-wing unions.

Lebanese Army and Phalangists battle against Druze in Chouf

From Robert Fisk, Beirut. Lebanon's slide into civil war accelerated last night as Druze militias threatened to take over all of the Chouf mountains above Beirut and Lebanese Government troops and Christian Phalangist militiamen fought side by side against the Druze around the perimeter of the city.

Russians hint at error but not shooting down jet

● Moscow last night hinted that the MIG pilot involved in the Korean jet incident may have mistaken it for an American RC135 spy plane.
● American officials maintain that the Russians could not have failed to identify the Korean plane as a civilian airliner before shooting it down.
● The Russians accused President Reagan of using the crisis to ensure the failure of the Geneva talks and guarantee deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles.
● Debris believed to be from the airliner has been found by searchers 57 miles north of Moneron Island, off the west coast of Sakhalin (Page 6)
● The visit to Paris by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, has been postponed to the end of the week by common consent
● The Canadian Government suspended for 60 days the Montreal landing rights of the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, its only scheduled service into North America

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Moscow yesterday responded to an American admission that a United States spy plane was in the same area at the ill-fated South Korean jumbo jet with growing indications that the MIG pilot involved in the incident made a fatal error of identification. The Russians have still not said, however, that shells fired by the MIG struck the Boeing.

In an article in *Pravda* yesterday, Colonel-General Semyon Romanov, chief of staff of the anti-aircraft defence, said the West was clanking loudly that the Soviet pilot knew perfectly well he was dealing with a civilian airliner. "But that is precisely what he did not know," Colonel-General Romanov said. "The jet was flying without lights, and its profile is similar in many ways to that of the American reconnaissance plane, the RC135. The pilot could not determine what function the intruder aircraft was carrying out."

The Tass version of the article rendered "could not" as "might well have failed" to determine.

This was the third time that Moscow had advanced the theory of mistaken identity to account for its action - without spelling out what action it had taken - five days after the incident occurred.

The Russians also stepped up their counter-attack against President Reagan by accusing him last night of taking advantage of the East-West crisis over the airliner to ensure that the Geneva arms talks which resume today fall, and

the cruise and Pershing 2 missiles are moved into place in December.

A long and detailed Tass statement said that Mr Reagan's "rabid anti-Soviet campaign" was a deliberate provocation intended to aggravate the world situation, obstruct the arms talks and enable the United States to gain military superiority over the Soviet Union so that it could dictate to it.

The Tass statement, like all Kremlin statements during the crisis, was released just before the evening news bulletin on television at 9pm. His harsh tone reinforced the impression that hardliners in the leadership have prevailed over those who favour a limited acknowledgement of Soviet culpability.

An American congressman who yesterday met senior Soviet Foreign Ministry officials in Moscow said he found it "unbelievable" that Soviet radar operators or fighter pilots could have confused a clearly marked 747 with the modified Boeing 747 or 707s used for reconnaissance missions.

Mr William Gray (Democrat, Pennsylvania), who had constituted on board the doomed jet, said he had told officials that Soviet radar was "surely good enough to distinguish them". The officials has insisted that the pilot was confused, and said the MIG interceptors chasing the jet had turned back when it had left Soviet air space and did not know its fate.

Mr Gray said he found it strange that Russia was conducting a search for wreckage in its own waters if the jumbo had flown on into international air space.

At his press conference Mr Gray said Foreign Ministry officials had directly denied that the jumbo was brought down by a Soviet missile. He had urged the officials to admit that an error had been made. But they had responded with a "wall of silence".

Tass reported American press comment on the presence of a second spy plane - as Tass put it - close to the Korean jumbo, and said it "raised new questions about an already complex issue".

Tass said the Reagan Administration was whipping up the cold war, and had incited a "mob of thugs" to break into the Soviet United Nations mission at Glen Cove, near New York.

● OTTAWA: The Canadian Government last night suspended the Montreal landing rights of Aeroflot, thus cutting off the Soviet airline's only scheduled service into North America (John Best writes).

The suspension, effective from today, is scheduled to last for 60 days. Eight of the Korean airline victims were Canadian citizens. Aeroflot had been operating two return flights a week to Montreal from Moscow, using large jets capable of carrying 200 or more passengers.

Leading article, page 11

US denies spy plane to blame

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington. American officials yesterday tried to clear up the confusion caused by the Reagan administration's admission on Sunday that a US reconnaissance aircraft had been in the general area of the Korean airliner about two hours before it was shot down.

The officials said that although the proximity of the two aircraft may have caused some initial confusion in the Soviet air defence command, the Russians could not have failed to identify the Korean plane as a civilian airliner during the 2½ hours it was tracked before being destroyed.

The officials pointed out that Soviet interceptors had come within 1½ miles of the jet and could not have mistaken its distinctive silhouette for the much smaller RC135 reconnaissance aircraft which the Americans used.

The same officials also emphasized that the US carried out routine patrols - as many as 20 a month - just outside Soviet airspace and that all their spy flights were carefully monitored by Russian radar. The spy plane in question was following a circular route which never penetrated Soviet airspace and was more than 1,000 miles from where the Korean airliner was shot down.

The crash happened just before 5pm on the A835 from Inverness to Ullapool three miles south of Braemar junction.

Mr John Cheadle, chief fire officer at the scene, said that the coach left the road and crashed down a fifteen foot bank, throwing people out and rolling onto its roof. Passengers were trapped inside and underneath the vehicle.

The coach had to be lifted by

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Shamir coalition delayed by Sharon role

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Attempts by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the newly elected leader of the Herut Party, to form a new right-wing coalition, have run into a series of political difficulties, including a dispute over the future role of reserve General Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister.

The in-fighting among the various parties which form the coalition originally put together by Mr Menachem Begin in 1977, is considered to be the reason why the retiring Prime Minister has so far delayed his promise to submit

a formal letter of resignation to President Chaim Herzog.

After five hours of intensive negotiations yesterday, no progress was reported in Mr Shamir's effort to secure the guaranteed backing of the three-man Tami Party, which is demanding a reversal of the sweeping public spending cuts agreed just before Mr Begin's decision to stand down.

Speculation that he intends to appoint Mr Sharon - despite the Kahan Commission's condemnation of the former Defence

Minister over the Beirut massacre - as chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Settlements, has upset the Liberal Party, the second largest group.

In addition to the problems over Tami and Mr Sharon's future, Mr Shamir also has to ensure the backing of the four members of the ultra Orthodox Agudat Israel Party. They are demanding a fresh commitment that the new Government will push through religious laws, which in their turn seem likely to alienate other potential partners.

Five die in Highland coach crash

By a Staff Reporter

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21 held on peace camp anniversary

Twenty-one women peace protesters were arrested yesterday, the second anniversary of the setting up of the camp at Greenham Common, Berkshire. The women lay in trenches and in front of workmen who were laying pipes outside the air base near Crookham Common, Berkshire.

Ms Barbara Harford, one of the campaigners, said the women had discovered only yesterday morning that the pipes were not intended to carry water, but were for carrying fuel to the base.

The women were arrested for conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace and were taken to Newbury police station.

Chief Inspector Nick Brachin said yesterday: "They will probably be released when work at the base has been finished for the event."

Some of the original women campaigners who had marched to Greenham from Cardiff visited the peace camp to mark the anniversary.

Sunbather fell to his death

Mr Michael Peck of Clifton Villas, Maiden Vale, West London, fell four storeys to his death when he rolled the wrong way in his sleep while sunbathing, an inquest was told yesterday.

Two flatmates read books while Mr Peck, a lighting technician aged 23, fell asleep on a narrow parapet. Miss Louise Fitzgerald, said: "I heard a rattle of trees and looked up and Michael was not there."

A verdict of accidental death was recorded by the Westminster coroner, Dr Paul Knapman.

Cannabis worth £1m seized

Customs officers claimed yesterday that they had seized a large drug ring after seizing herbaric cannabis thought to have a street value of more than £1m.

Ten men were being questioned in Liverpool last night in connection with the recovery of the drug. The customs men had swooped on a cocoa bean lorry which had a secret compartment. They had been watching it since it was shipped into Liverpool's Huskisson Dock last week on board a Nigerian vessel.

Hunt for wife to scale down

The police are to scale down the search for Mrs Diane Jones in two weeks if no further clues are found, it was announced yesterday. But yesterday 10 more officers were drafted in to help with the search for Mrs Jones, aged 35, who disappeared from her home in Coggeshall, Essex, on July 23.

Her husband, Dr Robert Jones, aged 40, who is on holiday in Australia, has told friends he may apply to emigrate there.

Steps to save dance courses

A group to protect threatened dance courses in institutions of higher education has been set up and will be ratified next May.

Called the Standing Conference on Dance in Higher Education, it was launched in London earlier this summer. Details can be obtained from Dr Janet Adhead, dance department, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XX.

Treasury starts battle to find £2,500m savings

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will tomorrow begin perhaps the toughest battle of his political career in his task of cutting £2,500m from departmental bids for public spending next year.

Treasury officials have reduced the total of excess bids from £6,000m, by cutting out claims for additional programmes and the inevitable "padding" of existing ones, but the remaining £2,500m will be more difficult.

Over the next four weeks or so, Mr Rees will be haggling with individual ministers, beginning tomorrow with Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, in an attempt to implement the Cabinet's July decision to stick to the planned spending total of £126,400m in 1984-85.

His chief difficulty is that much of the "hard-core" excess bidding relates to programmes such as social security and agricultural support which cannot be cut back without breaching government obligations. So cuts must be made elsewhere if the planned total is to be kept.

In addition nearly half of the £2,500m represents excess spending by local authorities over which the Government has relatively little control. It has already lost half the battle in conceding an additional £500m.

over existing plans for English councils next year, announced by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, in July.

Defence, by contrast, accounts for only £200m to £300m of the excess bids for next year. The main battle is being fought over plans for 1986-87, after the Government's Nato pledge to boost defence spending by 3 per cent a year in real terms, expires. The Treasury is insisting that no continuing commitment to future growth is made.

Civil Servants to vote on Labour link

From David Young, Blackpool

The right-wing leadership of the largest Civil Service trades union is to ballot its 200,000 members on whether it should affiliate to the Labour Party for the first time since 1927.

The executive committee of the Civil and Public Services Association is opposed to affiliation, but is bound by the decision of its annual policy-making conference to seek its members' views on the issue.

Civil Service unions were banned from political affiliation in 1927 after the general strike and although the legislation was repealed at the end of the Second World War, the CPSA then voted by four to one in a ballot not to affiliate to the Labour Party.

The executive says in a document which will be issued after this week's Trade Union Congress: "While consensus poli-

Platform strike deal fails

From David Black, Glasgow

Prospects for resumed production at Highlands Fabricators oil platform yard receded yesterday after a workers' meeting rejected a 21-point peace plan negotiated between national union leaders and management.

The deal involved the rehiring of all 2,000 men dismissed after a walkout over hot weather working conditions. But it included the loss of free transport to and from the yard at Nigg in north Scotland.

Despite warnings by union officials that the deal was not negotiable, the meeting demanded a return to work under pre-strike conditions, with further negotiation after that.

Mr Thomas Lafferty, an official of the Associated Union of Engineering Workers told the men he would recommend that the dispute be made official, but doubted whether it would receive national union backing.

Highlands Fabricators later issued a statement saying they were disappointed that the men had not accepted the plan, and urging them to give the position serious consideration.

The company has given a warning that it may close the yard and after the dismissals insisted only 1,600 men would be rehired.

Britain may join Europe in developing reactors

Britain is to apply to join forces with other EEC countries rather than the United States on development of fast-breeder nuclear reactors.

Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, announced yesterday that the Government had decided to open formal negotiations on joint development of fast reactors with France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands.

"Britain is among the world leaders in the development of this technology, but by seeking to join this European 'club' we expect to gain both technically and economically," he said.

Although the United States has expertise in building reactor components, France is the only country which has so far built fast-breeder reactors on a commercial rather than an experimental scale. Its Super Phoenix is due to begin operations next year.

Nuclear industry leaders in Britain also prefer cooperating



Paddle power: Robert McLaughlin ending his circumnavigation of Britain by canoe at County Hall, London, on Sunday. Mr McLaughlin, aged 24, from Lancaster, took 143 days for the journey of 2,093 nautical miles (Photograph: John Voos)

Union to back car strikers

By a Staff Reporter

The 15,000 Vauxhall workers at Luton, Bedfordshire, and Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, have rejected a 5 per cent offer. They argue that with productivity doubling in the past year and Vauxhall's share of the United Kingdom market rising from 7 to 14 per cent, they should receive more than last year's 9 per cent offer.

The workers' representatives at plant level have also argued that their average earnings of £120 a week are £60 a week less than wages paid for equivalent jobs at the General Motors' German plants.

A TGWU import blockade would have a quick and serious effect on Vauxhall, whose cars are in strong demand, with the Nova model being imported from a new Spanish plant.

Shop stewards from the two plants told TGWU officials in Blackpool during the Trades Union Congress yesterday that feelings in the two UK plants were already running high over the wage offer and there had been some guerrilla action by workers.

Mr Granville Hawley, the TGWU motor industry official, said: "I do not think the shop stewards will be able to hold the situation. The strongest possible approach will be made to the company, but we are not asking for talks about talks. We are asking for an improvement in the wage offer."

Representatives of workers dismissed by Austin Rover after lying to get jobs in the Cowley Oxford car assembly plant, want more talks with the company. The TGWU wants to resume a meeting adjourned three weeks ago after the management confirmed its decision to dismiss 13 of its members.

Jetty split by tug set adrift in gale

Gale force winds which wrecked havoc at the weekend were still taking their toll yesterday. The BP oil company's oil jetty at Angle Bay, on the Milford Haven waterway was cut in two by a tug which broke adrift during the gales.

A 100ft section of the jetty leading out from the shore was demolished, isolating the ocean terminal tanker berth from BP's shore facilities.

The unmanned tug Eskgarth had been tossed against the jetty for nearly seven hours at the weekend with BP staff powerless to help. The tug is now in Milford Haven docks with a damaged superstructure.

Parts of Northern Ireland were hit by storms gusting to hurricane force on Sunday. The Meteorological office in Belfast said. Dozens of trees were brought down, blocking a number of roads.

A cabin cruiser was sunk in Lough Swilly, off the co. Londonderry coast, but the owner managed to escape. Gusts of 80mph were reported in parts of the province, and the co. Down coast was among the worst-hit areas.

In Scotland, dozens of yachts were blown ashore when gale force winds caused havoc on the west coast. Most of the trouble was caused by pleasure craft breaking their moorings.

The Clyde coastguard was involved in two rescues: Six English holidaymakers on their yacht Hydrovane were rescued by the lifeboat as they drifted towards rocks. A crew member later described the seas as "mountainous".

A rescue helicopter and Largs lifeboat were called out, but the yacht concerned and two people on board had been taken in tow by a fishing boat.

Several fishing vessels were also grounded at Holy Island off Arran when they broke moorings, and further north, at Oban, the coastguard reported a similar picture. Two people scrambled to safety when their yacht was blown ashore near Crinan, Argyll.

A freak gust of wind may have caused an accident which killed a woman aged 80 when her daughter's car left the road and overturned. Gwent police said.

They believe the car driven by Mrs Joan Currie was blown off the A40 near Raglan by winds of up to 80mph.

Mrs Currie's mother Mrs Doris Minett, was crushed when she was thrown out of a car door as the overturned car on a roadside bank on Sunday afternoon.

Alan Currie, aged seven, was last night seriously ill in hospital at Aberavenny with head injuries.

Police are anxious to trace the driver of a lorry which Mrs Currie was just about to overtake when the accident happened.

Irish poll supports ban on abortion

From Our Correspondent, Dublin

The proposed amendment to the Irish constitution to include a legal ban on abortion is expected to be agreed by a majority of more than two to one in tomorrow's referendum.

An opinion poll published in the Irish Times yesterday, which was based on a survey conducted last week, found that 53 per cent would vote for the amendment, 24 per cent against, 14 per cent were undecided and 9 per cent would abstain.

The poll also found that a majority of more than two to one were in favour of capital punishment, and that a similar majority supported divorce.

The survey is seen as reflecting the recent canvass on behalf of the amendment by the Roman Catholic clergy and the main opposition party, Fianna Fail.

'Thatcher briefing leak'

A leak from the highest reaches of the Northern Ireland Office and the Foreign Office to the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party is expected to be revealed at a press conference in the party's headquarters in Belfast this morning.

Mr Peter Robinson, MP for Belfast East, and the DUP deputy leader, claims to have obtained confidential briefing papers being prepared for the Prime Minister in time for the next Anglo-Irish summit.

He plans to show these to reporters today. Mrs Margaret Thatcher is expected to meet Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, in November for what is being seen as a resumption of moves towards closer inter-governmental ties and particularly an agreed joint approach to Northern Ireland.

This process, begun in 1979, was interrupted by the decline in relations between Whitehall and Dublin during the Falklands crisis last year.

Mr Robinson says the briefing papers were leaked to the DUP by a British source sympathetic to the unionists' view.

It is thought that today's press conference will be taken by Mr Paisley, although this could not be confirmed last night. If the party does produce the documents it claims to possess, it will not be the first time the Stormont authorities have been embarrassed by a "mole" passing documents to the DUP. There have been several such instances in recent years and the party has also apparently obtained documents from sources within the police and Army from time to time.

'Save GLC' tour by Livingstone

By David Walker

Mr Kenneth Livingstone tomorrow begins a month-long assault on the annual round of union and party conferences in order to put the case for the Greater London Council's survival.

He will speak at a succession of fringe meetings, beginning with the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool and ending, in the same resort, with the Conservatives. In between he will visit the Social Democrats in Salford, the Liberals in Harrogate and the Labour Party in Brighton.

Accompanying the GLC's Labour leader will be an exhibition of its achievements to be set up in conference halls - including the TUC conference as a result of a court decision yesterday.

A High Court judge granted the GLC an injunction against the landlords of the Hounds Hill shopping precinct in Blackpool where space had been booked for the exhibition. Last week the landlords, John Laing, the building and property company, cancelled the booking. A GLC

spokesman said the exhibition would go ahead at the TUC today and tomorrow, a second booking for the Conservative conference, also cancelled, had still to be decided.

Mr Livingstone's staff have arranged a meeting at the Tory conference in a hotel and have invited the Conservative leader at County Hall Mr Alan Green-gross, to appear on the same platform. Mr Green-gross has not yet responded to the invitation to appear with Mr Livingstone at Brighton in order to make a bipartisan case for the GLC to the Labour conference.

Resolutions against the GLC's abolition have been tabled for the Liberals' conference.

Mr Reg Race, a former Labour MP who lost his constituency Haringey, Wood Green, through boundary changes, is to be considered later this week for a £20,000-plus job at the GLC.

Mr Livingstone: putting the case for survival

Mr Justice Kilner Brown, sitting in the Central Criminal Court, agreed a last minute request by Mr Martin that he should have legal aid to take on a solicitor and two counsel.

Mr Martin, aged 36, of Crawford Place, Marylebone, central London, who is accused of attempting to murder a policeman, had previously refused legal aid and had dismissed two solicitors, saying he intended to defend himself. But he told the judge that he had not had time to consider all the documents.

Mr Justice Kilner Brown said that because this was a serious case, he could see a complaint being made to the Court of Appeal if Mr Martin was not given a last opportunity to change his mind over legal representation.

He is charged with the attempted murder of PC Nicholas Carr, four burglaries, a £25,000 bank robbery, injuring a security guard, stealing property including 24 handguns, 915 rounds of ammunition, gun belts and holsters, stealing two cars, possessing guns with intent to endanger life and making use of guns in order to resist arrest.

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Muslim parents' plan to buy schools faces defeat

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

A proposal from Muslim parents in Bradford that they be allowed to buy five state schools and turn them into Muslim voluntary-aided schools looks set to be defeated tonight.

A paper drawn up by Bradford's education officers after seven months of discussion and consultation comes down firmly against the proposal from the Muslim Parents' Association that Whetley and Green Lane first schools, Marnalgham and Drummond middle schools and Belle Vue girls' upper school go Muslim.

The report, to be considered by the education committee tonight, says the proposal to set up the Muslim schools on the basis of Church of England voluntary-aided schools, has not been welcomed either by the majority or the minority community in Bradford. They "have aroused deep concern about their possibly divisive effects".

The Muslim Parents' Association

Father killed

Mr Leigh Harrison, aged 33, of Filton-on-the-Hill, Leicester, was killed and his wife and children were injured, when their car collided with two lorries at Kiplington, Oxfordshire

Rubella survives despite vaccine

A medical expert said yesterday that the congenital rubella syndrome - German measles - had remained virtually the same despite a highly effective vaccine.

Sir Cyril Clarke, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the University of Liverpool, said rubella, "a devastating congenital abnormality with cataracts, heart disease, deafness and mental retardation", was preventable. Sir Cyril was speaking to the seventeenth triennial conference of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences, the day after a newspaper said Britain faced a German measles epidemic in the autumn.

Sir Cyril, speaking at Stirling University, said girls aged between 10 and 14 were offered the vaccine which was comparatively free of reactions. The inoculation programme had been in operation for 15 years but rubella had remained the same, he said. This was because 75 per cent had antibodies and because half the remaining 25 per cent refused vaccination.

"Sometimes this is for no obvious reason, but more often because either the parent or grandmother says: 'She had measles when she was young'."

"Never believe this," Sir Cyril said. "Rubella is over-diagnosed. Any transient rash in a child is liable to be called this, whereas in fact many are the result of mild sensitivity to antibiotics."

Sir Cyril praised the situation in Sweden where girls were vaccinated once at 18 months and then at the age of 12. He said there was an interesting problem in the underdeveloped countries where there was a lot of deafness. "But no one yet knows how far rubella is responsible and a great deal of fieldwork needs doing."

Opening the conference, Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland said that the Government saw a role for private enterprise in health care, though it would not depart from the pledge to support a comprehensive and integrated National Health Service.

"We do not accept that the development of private health care facilities is detrimental to the interests of the health service or that such developments necessarily take away resources from existing hospital services."

"We see it more as a matter of private health care, complementing the work of the NHS and easing some of the pressures on the public services," he said.

Health authorities and everyone else had to get used to the idea of managing and developing health services

New delay in David Martin trial

By John Witherow

David Martin, the man police were hunting when they shot Mr Stephen Waldorf in a west London street in January, had his trial postponed for a week yesterday when he requested legal representation.

Mr Justice Kilner Brown, sitting in the Central Criminal Court, agreed a last minute request by Mr Martin that he should have legal aid to take on a solicitor and two counsel.

Mr Martin, aged 36, of Crawford Place, Marylebone, central London, who is accused of attempting to murder a policeman, had previously refused legal aid and had dismissed two solicitors, saying he intended to defend himself. But he told the judge that he had not had time to consider all the documents.

Mr Justice Kilner Brown said that because this was a serious case, he could see a complaint being made to the Court of Appeal if Mr Martin was not given a last opportunity to change his mind over legal representation.

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YOU'D BE BETTER OFF NOT READING THIS

We're going to tell you some shocking facts about water shortage in the Third World. So please read on. Because you may want to send us a donation.

15 million children born this year will die before they reach 5. And 80% of these deaths can be directly attributed to water related diseases.

Survivors may be crippled for life. While others will be constantly weak from illness.

In some parts of Africa, the stronger women and children walk miles in the blistering heat for water that may be stagnant and polluted.

All we have to do is turn a tap in the comfort of our own home. But not only does scarcity of water affect health, it cripples any hope of successful crop growing, bringing poverty and starvation in its wake.

No human being should have to suffer like this.

And at Oxfam we are doing what we can to prevent it. Throughout the Third World we have field officers who are helping organise small scale self help projects.

It costs so little money to improve their lives. But every day counts. And so does every pound. People in the Third World desperately need your help.

Please send a donation TODAY.

I'd like to help. I enclose £10 £25 £50 £...

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Send to Guy Stinger, Oxfam, Room T202, Freeport, OXFORD.



هكذا من الامم

Private detective killed solicitor's wife for promise of £10,000

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

A woman paid a part-time private detective £5,000 and promised the same amount again to kill a solicitor's wife, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

Julian Zajac, aged 29, of Napier Road, Avonmouth, near Bristol, who admitted murdering Mrs Shirley Rendell, aged 46, at her home in Yatton, Somerset, on February 23, was jailed for life. He had battered her repeatedly with a hammer and stabbed her 10 times in the throat.

Mr Justice Stephen Brown was told by Mr Roger Titheridge, QC, for the prosecution, that the murder was "counselled and procured" by a woman who was at present at liberty. "It is the intention of the Crown to proceed against her for murder and the defendant has expressed willingness to give evidence against her."

The judge had said earlier that he would make no order about naming the woman. "I would rely on the good sense of the press as the woman is likely to be arrested today and charged with murder," he said. If someone else was to be tried it was important to understand that a statement of apparent fact was an allegation only as far as that person was concerned, he said.

Mr Titheridge had read from a statement by Zajac about the woman. It said: "I feel she is such an evil person, for without her I would never have got involved. She is such a strong personality, she made me feel like a small boy with her."

Mr Titheridge said that Mrs Rendell had been described by almost everyone who knew her as "a kind, cheerful and generous woman". On February 23, her husband, Mr Hugh Rendell, left for a 9.30am appointment arranged by Zajac under a false



Mrs Rendell: Battered and stabbed

name to ensure that he was out of the bungalow.

At 9.00am Mrs Rendell was in her bedroom, speaking on the telephone to a local builder. She saw an old car stop outside the house and a man get out with a parcel. She interrupted her call, answered the front door and then returned to the telephone to say she would be in touch later.

She returned and she was beaten with a hammer and stabbed. Death was caused by a substantial number of blows from a hammer inflicted before the knife was used, the court heard.

Mr Titheridge said that Zajac did not know Mrs Rendell and had no reason for wishing her harm. He had done it for money, £5,000 down and the promise of £5,000 in December.

At first police inquiries led nowhere until a man named Daniels told them that Zajac had told him of a plot to harm Mrs Rendell.

Zajac, a worker at the Commonwealth smelting plant at Avonmouth, who also ran an agency called Eagle Investigations, later confessed to police that he had been approached in

October by someone whom he thought was a man because of the deepness of the voice.

A meeting was arranged when he discovered that it was a woman. Zajac said that he was asked to follow a male friend of Mrs Rendell, but was told later: "I want Mrs Rendell killed."

Zajac bought two shotguns on February 14 and before the murder he stole a white Mini.

In his statement to the police, Zajac said that he had been drinking all the time through nerves or guilt. He decided to make an attempt to go through with his contract. He drove to the bungalow and walked up the drive.

"I was carrying the shotgun in my left hand. It was still in the box and gift wrapping. At that stage I did not know what I was going to do, but I was not going to kill her."

"The front door was slightly open and she came to the door I said: 'Can you sign for this parcel, please.' She went back indoors and came back with the pen in her hand."

"I grabbed at her and she started screaming and struggling and I must have lost my head. We fell to the floor. I tried to calm her down and said: 'Do not worry, I have only come here to rob you'. And I hit her."

"I hit her with the hammer which I had taken from my coat pocket. I had left the parcel on the floor inside the front door. I had the hammer and the knife in my coat pocket because I had taken them there so she would think someone had been there to kill her."

"I lost my head. I cannot remember how many times I hit her with the hammer."

"I stood up thinking: 'What have I done?' She was still alive so I panicked and stabbed her in the throat with the knife and then ran out."



Eastern star: Japanese performer Akiko, who is taking part in the World Music Village festival being held in Holland Park and at the Commonwealth Institute, London

Immobility progress report

Clamp clears the kerbs

By Alan Hamilton

Putting the Denver Boot in has had a salutary effect on the behaviour of London's motorists, according to traffic officers of the Metropolitan Police.

Since a year long experiment in its use began a little over three months ago, the Denver Boot, an immobilising clamp so-called for its effective employment in the state capital of Colorado, has been applied to the wheels of between 8,500 and 9,000 illegally parked cars in a small and tightly defined area of central London. Police officers involved in the scheme report that there is now clear kerb space in parking black spots where there was none before.

The Boot test is being monitored by the Government's Transport and Road Research Laboratory, whose report next year will largely determine whether use of the device will be confined and extended to other areas of London and to other congested cities.

The police are already talking of the Boot with some enthusiasm. A Scotland Yard spokesman said yesterday: "On the whole, parking in London has become much easier, and we have had an encouraging response both from members of the public in residential areas, and from business premises whose goods vehicles previously could not park for loading and unloading."

Sheer inconvenience, in the police view, is the secret of the Boot's efficiency. A stricken motorist has to make his way to the police pound at Hyde Park and pay a total of £29.50 to have his vehicle released. Drivers then have to wait about an hour for the cruising police van to arrive with the key and remove the clamp.

The psychology of inconvenience was explained yesterday by Professor Tony Day, of the chair of transport engineering at Leeds University, who has made a study of London traffic problems. "If you are thinking about

parking illegally, you weigh up intuitively the chances of being caught, which are generally low, and the scale of the penalty. If you get a fixed penalty notice, you have a 50 per cent chance of getting away with it, and the sums are sufficiently small for many people not to be troubled by them, or to pass them on to their employers."

"Wheel clamps make the percentage chance of being caught very much higher. They also require the victim to spend a considerable amount of time waiting for the police to come and unlock them. Inconvenience is more democratic than money: it affects everyone equally."

Wheel clamps have been tried in other cities, like Washington, with less success than in London, Professor Day said. The key to London's success was using them only in a small and intensively policed area.

Removal of the wheel clamp has defeated all but the most dedicated illegal parkers, and only 12 have succeeded.

TV joins drive to help people add up

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

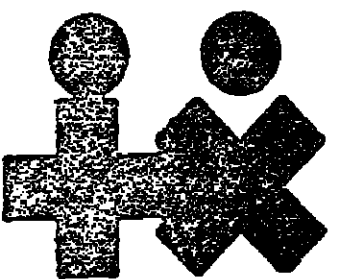
One in 10 adults, about 3.25 million people, cannot add up the cost of a few items bought in a shop or work out how much three courses from a menu will cost them. More than one in four adults cannot calculate the change due from a £5 note after buying an item.

To help them, and thereby enable them to compete better for jobs and training schemes, a campaign on the lines of the literacy campaign in the 1970s is being mounted next week, using posters, a specially designed symbol showing 2 plus multiplication sign (right), and programmes on Channel 4.

The initiative is unusual in that it is a collaborative effort involving Channel 4, Yorkshire Television, the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, the National Extension College and the Post Office. Two million letters are being franked with a message alerting people to National Numeracy Week, September 12 to 19.

The television programme, *Counting On*, will be shown at prime viewing time, 6.30 pm, from Monday and this will be accompanied by a workbook containing quizzes. These will be marked within hours by the National Extension College, which is using its own specially designed microcomputer system NAA (micro aided learning) to give quick replies.

Mr Christopher Jelley, head of education at Yorkshire Television, which made the television programmes, said: "There are



many who feel their lack of numeracy to be a very severe handicap. In the programmes we have tried to take the viewer seriously."

"They are not wildly entertaining programmes full of jokes. We do try to recognize that our target audience wants to learn." The programmes explain the basics of addition, subtraction, decimals, fractions and so on, as well as teaching about inflation, calorie counting and home computers.

There is evidence that many people have difficulty with basic numeracy. One in 10 has difficulty adding up, more than a quarter have trouble with subtraction and almost a third cannot deal with multiplication, division or with percentages. Women, in particular, seem to lack confidence.

A Gallup survey in 1981 found that four out of 10 people could not read a 24 hour timetable. More than 60 per cent got this question wrong: "What is happening to prices when the rate of inflation is decreasing?" The reply is that prices are still going up but at a lower rate. Most people think it means prices are falling.

Pub 'posse' captured jewel thief

Customers at a public house formed a posse when an elderly woman screamed that she had been mugged. Led by Mr James Goldie, aged 32, they rushed out to capture the thief.

After a chase through the streets they trapped the youth, aged 17, who was beaten before being handed over to the police. The Central Criminal Court heard yesterday, John Smart, unemployed, of Geffrye Street, Bethnal Green, east London, was convicted of robbing Mrs Catherine Brazill, aged 67, of a £500 gold chain and pendant in December. He was put on probation for two years with a condition that he attends an education project. He denied the charge and claimed his capture was a case of "mistaken identity".

Mr Recorder Hill, QC, praised the customers from the Old King John's Head in Whiston Road, Bethnal Green, for their "public spirit".

Mr Kevin Dehaan, for the prosecution, said that they had been enjoying a Saturday afternoon drink when Mrs Brazill stumbled into the bar. She cried out: "I have been mugged."

Macfarlane calls for fight report

Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment with responsibility for sport, returned from his summer holiday yesterday and immediately called for full reports from all concerned with Saturday's crowd disturbances at the Brighton v Chelsea football match.

He said: "We spent the whole of the summer liaising with football authorities to try to ensure that these disastrous scenes would not be repeated. We especially concentrated on the flash points where known troublemakers would be appearing particularly matches involving Chelsea, to make sure that the police and the club took the most stringent precautions to eliminate the sort of violence that seems to have occurred."

The Football Association is awaiting the report from the referee Mr Ken Baker, before announcing what action it will take. It will also call for reports from the police, as well as both clubs, into the incidents which left seven policemen injured after a pitch battle. There were 125 arrests, and more than 40 people were treated in hospital.

Man 'killed' trying to stop attack

A man was stabbed to death when he tried to rescue a neighbour who was being attacked. The Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Mr Donald Stockwell, aged 44, a driver, of Worpole Road, Isleworth, west London, got out of bed to save a man being attacked by a gang in the street outside, Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, said. But two of the men turned on him, knifed him four times and he collapsed from a wound through the heart.

"Most people would have ducked their heads and stayed indoors," Mr Amlot said.

Thomas Downing, aged 22, of Cherry Crescent, and David Skipp, aged 21, of Hamilton Road, both of Brentford, west London, deny murdering Mr Stockwell in January. The two men and Gary Owen, aged 26, of Summerwood, Isleworth, all deny causing an affray.

The trial continues today.

Brighton calls were hoaxes

Two telephone calls in which a man claimed to know one of three men involved in a sex attack on a boy aged six in Brighton have been discounted as hoaxes. A Yorkshire policeman recognized the caller's voice from a tape recording.

A man, believed to be an alcoholic homosexual has been interviewed in Huddersfield and papers have been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Burrell museum work delayed

Glasgow's new Burrell Museum, will not be completed until the Queen opens the £20m project on October 21. City councillors learned yesterday that some construction work will still be going on next year.

At a hastily convened meeting yesterday, the council's housing sub-committee, and before a report listing all outstanding areas. It included remedying work previously noted as unacceptable.

Gunmen snatch £25,000

Two gunmen wearing ski masks snatched £25,000 from Security Express guards in a van outside the National Westminster Bank at the Broadway, New Haw, Surrey, yesterday.

The raiders got into a car with a third man at the wheel and escaped as one of the guards tried to give chase.

US base fire

Forensic scientists and detectives were yesterday examining the debris of a fire which started on Saturday at the United States Air Force base at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Threat trial

A man accused of threatening to kill the Prince of Wales was yesterday committed for trial at Aylesbury Crown Court. Dunstan Dunstan, aged 29, who is unemployed and lives on a boat moored at Aylesbury, was remanded in custody.

Painting charge

Three men appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday charged with causing wilful and malicious damage to a painting at St Mary's Cathedral in the City.

TV-am to pay Jay £120,000

By David Hewson

Mr Peter Jay is to receive £120,000 from TV-am after his departure as the independent breakfast station's chief executive and chairman earlier this year.

The company's shareholders voted for the pay-off at an extraordinary meeting yesterday. Mr Jay, whose salary with the station was £50,000 a year, is to be given a small amount as a down-payment, with the remainder in instalments.

TV-am said yesterday that the shareholders' meeting was a formality under the Companies Act. "It was called just to discuss this and only lasted a few minutes."

The company is still trying to agree pay-offs for Miss Anna Ford and Miss Angela Rippon, the dismissed presenters, who have rejected offers of £25,000 each. TV-am said that the involvement of Mr Robert Kee, one of the original presenters, was a matter of discussion with the company at the moment.

"There are no plans for him to appear, neither are there any plans for him not to appear."

Mr Kee has not been seen on the channel for some weeks, and the company's forthcoming serious political interviews are to be undertaken by Mr John



Mr Peter Jay: Pay-off by instalments

Stapleton, who has just moved from *Newsnight*.

Audience ratings released yesterday showed that the station was continuing to run neck-and-neck with the BBC's *Breakfast Time* on most weekday mornings. Its average peak quarter hour audience during the week slipped by 100,000 to 1.6 million while the BBC's rose by 200,000 to 1.3 million. The figures, for the week ending August 28, indicated that TV-am reached 5.4 million individuals during the week against the BBC's 4.1 million.

Raymond faces summons over sex shop

Dreaming Lips, a sex shop in premises owned by Mr Paul Raymond, the impresario, was operating without a licence when raided by police. Bow Street Magistrates' Court in London was told yesterday.

The store in Soho was busy with customers and crammed with magazines, records, films and sex aids when it was visited twice last February, the court heard.

Mr Raymond, aged 57, of Arlington Street, St James, London, faces two summonses for permitting the use of the premises without a licence. His company, the Paul Raymond Organization, faces two similar summonses.

The hearing is the first case of its kind under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1982, Mr Richard du Cann, for Westminster Council, said.

Mr Victor Durand, QC, for Mr Raymond, said the lease on the shop was stringent in terms of usage, but responsibility for this matter was out of his client's hands.

The hearing continues today.

First electronic school magazine claim by pupils

By Clive Cookson
Technology Correspondent

A group of West Midlands children have brought out what they claim is the world's first electronic school magazine.

Nine pupils aged 13 and 14 at Light Hall Secondary School, Solihull, produced their magazine for Club 403, a home shopping and information service for the Birmingham area, using the Prestel videodata network.

Club 403 subscribers include 40 secondary schools and colleges in the West Midlands. "Light Hall has attracted a lot of interest and rivalry among other schools", Dr Robert McKee, Club 403 education manager, said. "We are trying to get all 40 to produce electronic magazines by launching a competition next month."

Dr McKee hopes to get Light Hall into the *Guinness Book of Records* as the first electronic school magazine in the world.

The first edition of the Light Hall magazine carries 12 pages of pupils' quizzes, stories, jokes and poems. Future issues will include computer graphics.

Town ready for war on badgers

The townspeople of Castle Cary in Somerset are to hold a second public meeting to decide what they can do about dozens of badgers that have set up home in the area, invading and damaging gardens and, it is feared, undermining the foundations of buildings.

The meeting, later this month, is likely to hear demands that licences should be granted by the Ministry of Agriculture so that at least some of the badgers can be trapped and moved or killed.

Some gardens in the centre of Castle Cary have been turned into fortresses in an attempt to keep the badgers out. Someone put up an electric fence, but to no avail.

Recently the underground workings of badgers toppled an oil tank on a factory site and there are worries that a new housing association development may have been built on a large badger settlement.

Mrs Ruth Murray, a conservationist from Dartmoor, removed some badgers from the area two years ago and released them in Devon. She has now promised to carry out a similar operation in Castle Cary.

However, at the first public meeting in the town many local people said this was not enough and demanded the right to deal with the badgers in their own way.

Irish jobless up

The number of unemployed in the Irish Republic has reached a record 194,000, which, at 15 per cent, gives the country the highest proportion of people out of work in the EEC.

Police build picture of headless girl

Police scientists are sifting half a ton of soil taken from the Devon forest area where a woman's headless body was found on Saturday.

A painstaking search has been launched in a wide area under and around her body for clues to her killer. She had been shot.

But despite nation wide inquiries, police are still baffled about her identity. Their only new discovery is that she was wearing bright mauve nail varnish.

The woman, aged between 15 and 30 was found in dense undergrowth at the edge of a popular woodland covering spot 40 yards from the main Exeter to Torbay road at Telegraph Hill.

Dressed in beige shorts and a white tee-shirt, she had been shot

several times at close range. But so far the calibre of the weapon has not been established. The bullets fragmented considerably, causing injuries resembling shrapnel wounds.

As nearly a hundred officers stepped up the hunt through the forest for the woman's missing head, detectives continued checks on camping and caravan sites in the area.

The fingerprints of Veronique Marre, a French girl who has been missing from Cambridgeshire for three weeks, have been sent to the Exeter-based murder headquarters.

Det Chief Supt John Bissett, head of Devon and Cornwall CID, said: "We have had a magnificent response from the public but we are still no nearer

to identifying the murder victim. "We are anxious to hear from any importers or distributors of the Thai-made fumpants she was wearing."

"It is a long and gradual process but we are building up a picture of the victim. We know she was about 5ft 11in tall with a slim build - she had a 21-inch waist. Her hair could be brown or auburn and she was wearing bright mauve nail varnish."

"Unfortunately, the state of the body has made it very difficult for scientists to pinpoint her age more exactly than 15 to 30."

"We are at the start of what could be a very difficult inquiry and there is a tremendous amount of work."

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TUC BLACKPOOL 1983

● Chapple on reforms

● Election policies

● Trade group rights

Threats to governments 'a dangerous boomerang'

Chapple tells delegates

Threats to destroy elected governments were not only inflated but they were also a dangerous boomerang, Mr Frank Chapple, chairman of the TUC General Council, said when he addressed the 115th Trades Union Congress which opened in Blackpool yesterday. Such action, he said, alienated unions from their members as well as threatened the only type of society that guaranteed their own freedom.

Mr Chapple, who is general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications, and Plumbing Union (EETPU) and in his last year as a member of the general council, said, in calling on the movement to refashion itself in order to strengthen its appeal, that sometimes unions appeared to act as though they were the mouthpiece of a few.

"We must never treat our members with contempt or distrust their judgment. We will have to understand that solidarity is not just the majority supporting the few, but the few supporting the majority. We cannot claim to protect the weak and ourselves endorse actions which inflict harm upon them."

The government would eventually learn that free market extravaganzas were just as irrelevant as the inefficiencies of state planning bureaucracies, but in the meantime unemployment and its social problems would remain intolerably high.

"That is why our duty is clear. That is why we have to argue with the Government and build a partnership that can revitalize Britain. We cannot content ourselves with this responsibility or behave like some obscure religious sect that insists on not talking to unbelievers."

To a mixture of loud hissing and cheers, Mr Chapple added: "I am sure that the majority of our

Reports from Alan Wood, Gordon Wellman, and Stephen Goodwin

members are as baffled as I am that some trade union leaders will travel half way across the world to sympathise with Communist dictators, yet seek to prevent the TUC from talking to the elected Government of Britain."

Apart from being the voice of the movement, the congress also had to provide leadership. It had to be representative, brave enough to face difficult decisions, and far-sighted enough to see where members had not even begun to look.

"Crucial to these qualities is the willingness, indeed the determination, to look reality in the face to confront the truth: to assess where we are. There is no doubt that our movement has suffered in the past few years. Membership has fallen from a high of 13 million in 1980 to 10.5 million by the latest count."

Politically there had also been setbacks. Not only had new employment laws been passed and policies adopted which put the Government in a better position than on June 9 the Government had been re-elected with a "thumping" majority.

"And, if this were not bad enough, our own party, the Labour Party, was humiliated with its lowest average votes per constituency since 1900 and third place in nearly half the country. It is obvious that a majority of our members ignored our advice to vote Labour and, according to some pundits, it is extremely unlikely that Labour can win in 1988," Mr Chapple said to some jeers.

Trade unionism might be on the defensive, the president added, but it was neither defeated nor "finished" as some commentators said.

"Despite our membership losses, we still organize over 50 per cent of the employed population and unemployment has hit the organized harder than it has hit the unorganized."

Notwithstanding press criticism and the hostility of the Government, millions continue to vote for the movement with their money every week. Many unions had recruited during the election, although not always quickly enough to compensate for the losses incurred by factory closures.

The record of the past five years was that the membership had shown faith in its leaders. Part of leadership was reciprocating that faith, listening and learning from the millions who made up the movement.

"No one can pretend that these millions have not spoken. For more than 20 years our public popularity has been sliding - at the same time too many of our members have been expressing their unease."

"This unease has not all been simply whipped up by right-wing newspapers or manufactured by opinion pollsters. It has also reflected itself in the mass desertion of Labour votes and the support which this Government's industrial relations legislation has attracted."

It was crucially important that movement should recognize those criticisms. "If we had listened earlier, we might not have suffered the catastrophe of June 9 or the defeat of five years ago."

"Accepting that we ourselves have to make necessary reforms will not only give us a fighting chance of regaining the trust we have allowed to wither; it would also blunt the attacks made upon us, put an end to some self-inflicted absurdities we stumble into, and strengthen our appeal."



Deep discussion: Mr Chapple (left) with Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, in Blackpool yesterday (Photograph: John Manning)

Employers' advisers condemned

There were now consultants, mostly from the United States but some British, who specialized in advising employers on how to avoid trade unions, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, said.

He moved a motion asking the congress to condemn the use of anti-trade union consultants in advising employers, particularly multinational employers, on the evasion of effective trade union recognition and collective bargaining.

The motion, which was unanimously approved, instructed the general council to monitor and publicize such consultants' activities and to advise affiliated unions so that effective and public pressure could be brought to counter this "dangerous development."

Mr William Silks, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said that "American union busting" techniques were being used in Britain. The first sign that the British Steel Corporation, with Tory Government backing, was applying such wrecking methods came shortly after the 13 week strike in 1980.

Attempt to change voting rules fails

Without a card vote, the congress threw out an attempt to change the new system under which unions with more than 100,000 members have been able to nominate a total of 34 members of the general council, with smaller unions electing 11 members and a further election for 6 women members. Voting for the latter 17 takes place today.

Mr Alan Sapper, of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, who in the voting today hopes to be one of the 11 elected to the general council of which he is a past chairman, complained that the new "automatic" proposals for nominations to the general council were divisive.

The smaller unions, he said, had been subjected to more intense patronage than under the old trade group system. About seven separate lists of right-wing and left-wing names had been circulated, culminating in a right-wing "hit-list" of those to be eliminated in the election.

Some larger unions with more than 100,000 members had been replying to accusations against them that they manipulated their membership figures in an outrageous way. That behaviour had deflected the energies and attention of the general council and had divided it at a time when the need was for maximum possible unity.

The "numbers game" was in fashion. There was now the possibility of some unions supporting their membership by listing the residents of the local constituency.

The motion which the conference rejected sought to instruct the general council to present a report next year containing proposals for a revised trade group structure and a general council that would be elected annually by the Congress as a whole.

Mr Sapper said he feared that powerful self-selected representatives of the big unions might dominate the new structure of the general council. The movement would be weakened.

Mr Bryan Stanley, secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union, called on the congress to confirm its decisions of the past two years and to reject what was virtually the old system. That system had been unfair and flawed by patronage.

The ACTAT motion was heavily defeated on a show of hands.

Today's debates

Today's conference debates will include the Government's trade union legislation, wages councils, the Youth Training Scheme, organizing the unemployed, civil liberties, trades councils, social insurance, and industrial welfare issues.

Frank Johnson at Blackpool

Of capitalism and Yates's wine bar

Once more to Blackpool, then, for the first day of the Trades Union Congress and therefore the first day of a new political year.

From first thing in the morning, it was a day marked by giant waves. This is a reference, not only to the legendary, blow-drying skills of the relays of hairdressers employed to combed Mr Scargill's hair, but to the raging seas and whistling winds that made the journey along the promenade to the hall so exhilarating. Of Mr Scargill, his patch, and his waves, however, more later.

"Seven million people went hungry at one time or another in the past year," began the lead story in the *Militant* newspaper, available outside the hall. In my own case, I remembered the time well. It was last time in Blackpool. There are a few good restaurants in the town. But they are difficult to get into, especially when the full-time trade union officials are here in force, with their famed, almost unlimited expenses. So, at one time or another, millions go hungry.

But on closer inspection, it emerged that the *Militant* story was about something else entirely: nutrition under Thatcherism. It was just another routinely preposterous tale of misery.

There was strong competition between *Militant* and the rival sheets of the left to offer delegates the most exciting stories smuggled out of Thatcher-occupied Britain. "The new McCarthyism" shrieked the big black headline of *Union Voice*. Most - see left-wing readers with a knowledge of twentieth-century history would automatically assume this to be a reference to the sinister, witch-hunting Lord McCarthy and his notorious Nuffield College, the man whose "industrial arbitration" methods raised so many lives at the height of the union terror of the 1970s.

In fact, the past's McCarthy was a plainly daff American politician of limited and brief influence in the 1950s who has been of great benefit to communists everywhere ever since. This man was supposed now to be inspiring Mr Norman Tebbit's policy on industrial spies.

The circulation war between these sensationalist tabloids continued with *Militant* hitting back with a section on battered wives. "Only Marxism," a reader's letter said on the subject, "can explain why this phenomenon is widespread in our society." This would have

come as a surprise to a woman much exploited by Marxism. Marx's wife, the saintly and sorely put-upon Jenny.

Obviously, all the papers were agreed as to the causes of all the ills, disappointments and inconveniences in which they traded. They blamed capitalism. Inside the hall, there was a conference about the press. For this year the right wing was in stronger shape than for many years.

This year's president condemned those trade unionists who were unprepared to talk to the elected representative of the British people, but were prepared to talk to the anaesthetized representative of the Soviet people. True, he was whistled and booed a bit for that. But one sensed the presence of a silent majority before him, confirmed later in the day when, under the gaze of high-ranking constitutional reform, the right voted lots of small, left-wing motions of the general council and into oblivion.

But, right of left, the mood was one of gloom deepened by the state of the national luncheon place of refreshment, Yates's Wine Lodge. This used to be a place of wrought iron, chip butties and bare floorboards. This year it has become the Café d'Europe with polished wood, mosaic and green potted plants which hung down from the ceiling like giant spiders in an old-fashioned horror film.

I found Mr Stanley Orme the Opposition spokesman on industry, and expressed the view that what had happened to the place was disgraceful. He agreed. He blamed capitalism. "Market forces," he said. While remaining unopposed by the left, blaming capitalism was a safe bet. I think they have a point on wine bars.

By nightfall, the left had parked up a little at the Tribune rally. Mr Wedgwood Benn puffed severely on his pipe. Mr Scargill rose beneath his "why don't you come over and join me" hairstyle, and raged contentedly.

As I did last year, I raise the air issue, not for purposes of vulgar, personal abuse, but because what it signifies is that a man who believes that he and his friends should plan our entire economy thinks the rest of us are too foolish, not just to plan our own personal economies, but to spot that he is bald. But he was a great battler with a loyal audience. He covered nearly everything, including football hooliganism, which of course he blamed on capitalism.

No need for a U-turn on election policy, Labour Party chairman says

Mr Sam McCusker, chairman of the Labour Party, was loudly applauded when he asserted that there was no case for a complete U-turn in the policies on which they fought the last election. It was for the congress to decide how it would deal with the government of the day, but, he said, "Let us have no talk about weakening the bonds between the Labour Party and the TUC."

Mr McCusker said that the election result could not be blamed entirely on the right-wing bias of the press or the Falklands factor. The biggest thing that gave the Conservatives their massive victory was the Labour Party itself. He continued: "You at this conference set many of the themes that are carried at the Labour Party

conference so if there is something wrong with the Labour Party, there is something wrong with you because you are the people that make the policies."

The people had passed harsh judgment on the Labour Party and three policies needed to be changed. First, it had to stop the constitutional squabbling. Second, it had to end the factional rivalries and unite around the new leadership which would be elected next month. Finally, and most importantly, it must not panic.

It would be wrong to over-react to the defeat on June 9 by demolishing the century-old pillars of policy. The Labour Party had to improve its professionalism and its publicity techniques to get over its policies much better to the people.

There should be no U-turn on policy because it was still a national disgrace that four million people were out of work. He was not sure they could get them all back to work but they could try and the only way would be by sensible socialist policies which would be as relevant in five years' time as they were at the last election.

The movement had to defend the NHS and that would be as relevant in five years' time as it was at the election. It was still a moral outrage that billions were spent on creating the weapons of mass destruction.

Under the present Government things would only get worse and if ever there was a time for unity between the two sides of the movement it was now, he said.

Fowler restates pledge to elderly

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, yesterday showed his first public appearance since returning from his summer break to reiterate the Government's commitment to the health service and to elderly people as a priority group.

Opening an international conference in London, Mr Fowler said that adequate and effective provision for elderly people was a priority for the Government. One of his main challenges was to ensure that the growing proportion of elderly people were able to live as independently as they wished for as long as possible, supported by their families, friends and neighbours, and by health and social services and voluntary agencies.

But he urged delegates to the conference, organized by *Nursing Mirror* and the Royal College of Nursing society of geriatric nursing on the theme "Focus on the elderly", to heed economic arguments in their discussions. Advances in welfare services in Britain had depended on economic growth.

He said he did not believe that proposals based primarily on unrealistic expenditure would provide solutions to the challenges ahead. "None of us can provide more than our countries can afford."

Elderly people needed adequate appropriate housing, effective health services and support from social services and other agencies. The Government had raised retirement pensions faster than prices, and the recent drop in inflation had particularly helped pensioners who had savings. Good housing would relieve unnecessary pressure on health and social services, where lack of it could result in "social" admissions and the blocking of beds.

"The provision of effective health care to elderly people is essential especially to the growing proportion of the very elderly," Mr Fowler said.

"We are committed to a strong national health service and we have identified elderly people as one of the priority groups for whom services must be developed most intensively."

European ministers meeting in Copenhagen today are urged to help elderly people to stay in their own homes longer through a variety of services. A report prepared by social workers whose work has been funded by the EEC and published by the British Association of Social Workers, says the long-term effects of mass unemployment cannot be ignored.

SNP abandons firewater in search for 'malt whisky' appeal

From Tom James
Glasgow

At the Scottish National Party's annual conference in 1981, one of its leading ideologues, Mr James Silks, the former Labour MP, launched a high-profile campaign of activist home-rule politics with a warning that jail doors would soon be clanging behind nationalists as they clashed with the law in acts of civil disobedience.

It was a fiery political brew designed to jolt Scots out of the political apathy that surrounded the home-rule issue.

Like illicit liquor still to be found in the remotest parts of Scotland, it was meant to put fire in the belly and cause a rush of blood to the head.

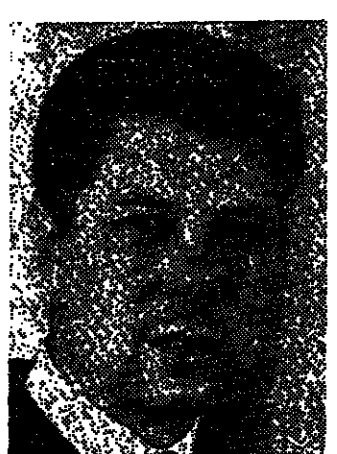
It worked, but on the distillers of the potion, not on their intended customers. The voters proved to have harder heads than the nationalists.

In the event, it was the SNP alone which became agitated. By last year's annual conference they were in the midst of a damaging public campaign that drove away hundreds of members and disheartened hundreds more of their supporters.

A fundamentalist wing took over from the Silksites and a new blend of political firewater was launched with the slogan "Independence. Nothing Less."

It proved just as raw and unpalatable to the electorate as civil disobedience.

At the election in June the nationalists ceased to be the recognized third force in Scottish politics. Although their two sitting MPs, Mr Gordon Wilson in Dundee East and Mr Donald Stewart in the Western Isles, were returned to Westminster, the SNP captured less than 12 per cent of



Mr Silks: Fiery appeal toned down

the vote in Scotland and left a trail of lost deposits.

This week, three months after those disastrous election results, the leadership of the SNP has embarked on the search for a distillation of party politics that has the smooth consumer appeal of a fine malt whisky. The SNP's agenda for this year's annual conference, published yesterday, discloses clear attempts to reshape the party's thinking along more popular lines in several significant areas of policy.

"If we wish to rejoin the mainstream of Scottish politics and rebuild our popular support, we will have to take the appropriate policy decisions," Mr Wilson bluntly tells his party in the foreword to the agenda.

"The goal I would set the party for the next general election is to win significant political power and to build up to the base whereby we can get the majority of Scots MPs that would give us a

mandate for independence", he said yesterday.

Undoubtedly the main debate at the conference, to be held in the Clyde-side resort of Rothesay from September 29 to October 1, will centre on the one issue with which they are identified: the attainment of a sovereign Scottish parliament.

In recent years the crux of the internal party debate has been whether the SNP should opt for the all-or-nothing approach or tolerate a stepping-stone, gradualist road to independence.

Mr Wilson and several of the party's leading strategists concede that the "Independence. Nothing Less" concept caused them serious electoral damage.

"It gave us a harsh, ungenerous image," he said. "We had a bad attack of the ultras. Extremism of one sort or another plagued us during that period before the election."

In a confidential memorandum to the party executive recently Mr Wilson gave his personal backing to a motion which waters down the purist demands that nothing short of full sovereignty should be accepted by the party.

The motion, tabled by the party strategy committee, reaffirms the SNP's ultimate aim as a sovereign parliament, but calls on the party "not to obstruct" any steps that are taken meantime towards devolution.

Mr Wilson has come a long way from that overheated conference in Ayr last year when he led the move to expel the gradualist left wingers of the party's 79 Group.

His concessionary move is acknowledged and supported by the left wingers who have returned to the party fold.

Telegraph 'inaccurate, not malicious'

An article by James Preston in a Personal View column in the *Daily Telegraph* saying that The League Against Cruel Sports was party to an ecological and social disaster among red deer on Exmoor was marred by inaccuracies and by exaggerated language and conclusions, the Press Council ruled today. But it was not written and published maliciously.

Mr Preston had written that the League's purchase of 32 small farms and woods to provide deer sanctuaries had created small and isolated sanctuaries ideal for poachers because the league had only two wardens to police an area almost the size of Greater London.

He wrote that one of the sanctuaries had become a day-and-night shooting gallery.

Mr Richard Course, the league's director, wrote to the editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, Mr William Deedes, request a

further article to correct inaccuracies and damaging statements. He asked how the league could be involved in an ecological and social disaster when it owned less than 0.5 per cent of Exmoor.

There was no evidence of poaching on its property. It was the only organization to buy land to protect deer. It offered a £5,000 reward for information about poachers.

Mr Course told the complaints committee that the 60-acre wood discussed in a shooting gallery consisted of conifers, with no food for deer. There were no deer in or around the wood.

Asked why the league did not submit an article after the editor offered to give another viewpoint serious consideration, Mr Course said Mr Deedes could have published the league's letter. A submitted article would not have been used, he said.

The Press Council's adjudication was:

"The article was a vigorous, personal and highly polemical view of the effect of the league's activities on Exmoor. The Press Council does not believe it was written and published maliciously but it was marred by exaggeration and by exaggerated language and conclusions. To this extent the complaint against the *Daily Telegraph* is upheld. No convincing evidence has been produced that there has been an ecological disaster on a huge scale among red deer or that the league has been party to it, as the article asserts; that one of the league's sanctuaries has become a day and night shooting gallery; or that the incidence of poaching has been increased by the existence of the sanctuaries. However, in the council's opinion the league should have taken up and tested the editor's offer to give sympathetic consideration to publishing another point of view and the complaint that he failed to remedy the article's defects is, therefore, not upheld."



Pilot challenges her own record

High-flying executive: Mrs Brooke Knapp (above), President of Los Angeles-based Jet Airways, is determined to break her around-the-world speed record for light jets set in February. Mrs Knapp, aged 37, yesterday announced her intention of flying around the world, via both poles, in a Gulfstream III in November. She hopes to beat her time of 50 hours, 22 minutes and 42 seconds. Five years ago she was afraid of flying. (Photograph: David Cairns)

Questionnaire on video censorship

Two million questionnaires will be distributed to 8,000 video retailers this week in a campaign to test public reaction to censorship of home video films.

The Video Trades Association hopes that the results of its survey will provide a "political dipstick" for Mr Graham Bright, the Conservative MP for Luton, South, who will introduce a private members Bill controlling videos.

The questionnaire asks people if they think that home videos should be subjected to more, less, or the same degree of censorship as cinema films.

Whitehall brief

Keeping a clean sea

By Peter Hennessy

Oil slicks drifting towards the British coastline are political dynamite. Fishermen, hoteliers, conservationists and MPs representing the threatened littoral tend to explode.

Whitehall's first line of defence is the put on alert the Department of Transport's Marine Pollution Control Unit headed by Rear-Admiral Michael Stacey. Dr Douglas Cormack, his chief scientific adviser, has just published a book about the unit's capability and the range of difficulties it could confront.

Responses to *Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution* is, in its way, a remarkable piece of open government. It is candid about the state of the art, what can and cannot be done once disaster has occurred.

In 1978 when the *Elani V* spilled thick furnace fuel oil in the North Sea the frailty of Britain's contingency planning, 11 years after the Torrey Canyon disaster had first pushed the issue to the forefront of the public mind, was exposed for all to see, though no other nation was better placed.

Dr Cormack, then a member of the Department of Industry's Warren Spring Laboratory, was reduced to desperation measures like putting a corporation lorry with a suction tube of the kind used to empty drains on the back of the laboratory's vessel, *Sea-sprite*.

Matters have improved considerably since then. Admiral Stacey's unit was formed in 1979 to take a firmer grip and to avoid trans-departmental and Whitehall/local authority disputes about who does what. Research and development was set in train under Dr Cormack's supervision.

Defences now include better dispersants stockpiled at 19 bases (Southend, Exeter, Freston and Kinloss and 15 subsidiary airfields). The Department of Transport has eight reconnaissance-cruising spraying aircraft on contract from Harver Air.

Also designated for the battle to keep oil off British beaches is seaboard equipment known as the spring-sweep system of booms and sea-skimming pumps. There is also a stockpile of kit for transferring cargo from stricken vessels.

Siege inquest opened

An inquest opened yesterday on a father who was found dead with a gun beside him after a four-hour siege that began when he was shot and critically wounded his daughter, aged 15.

The Surrey coroner, Lieutenant-Colonel George McEwan, said that a post mortem examination established the Mr Ron Frost died

from a gunshot wound to the head at his home in Priors Croft, Old Woking, Surrey.

Det Chief Inspector Brian Richardson said he was satisfied that nobody else had been directly concerned with Mr Frost's death.

The inquest at Chertsey was adjourned until police inquiries have been completed.

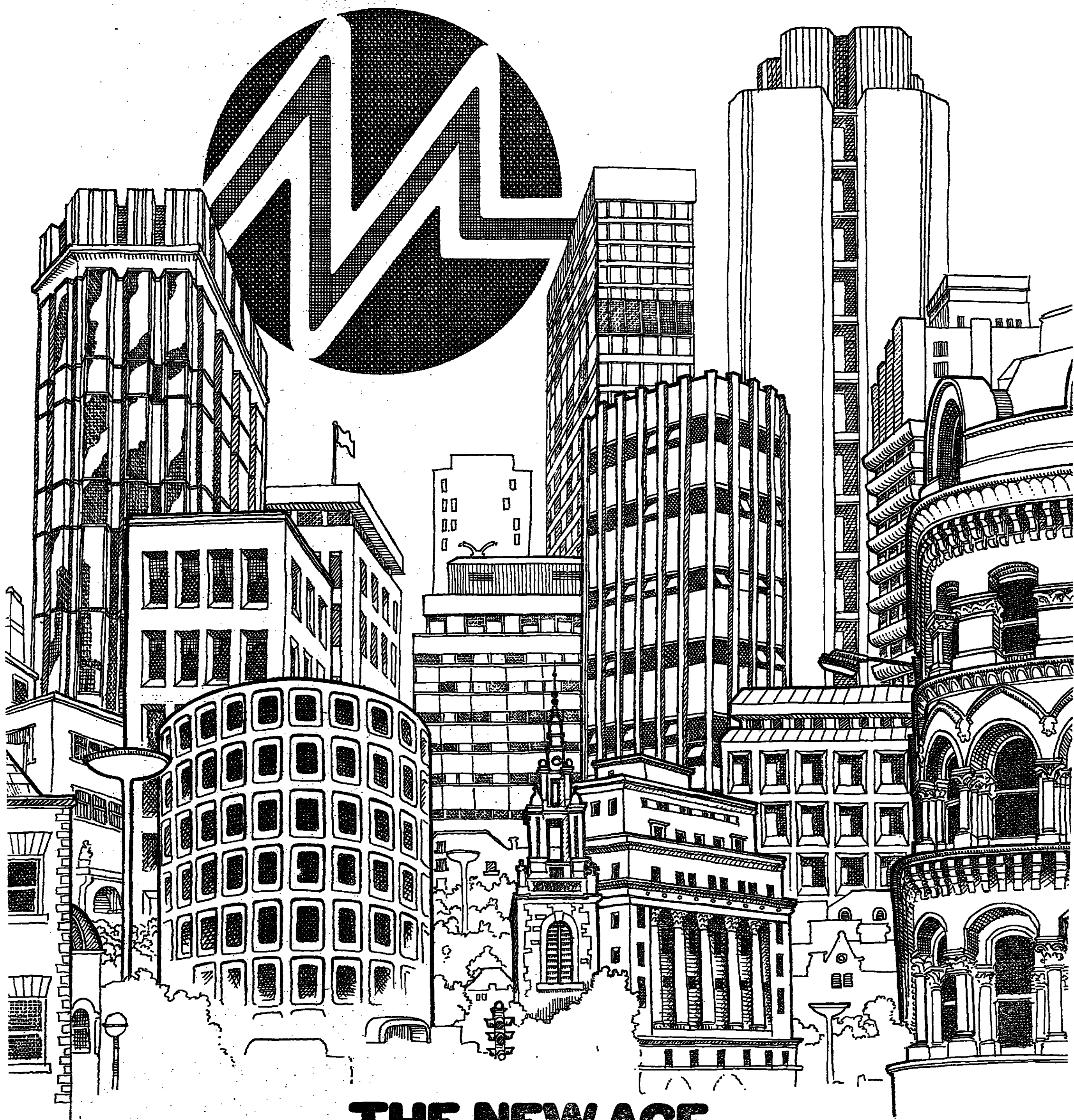
Dr Cormack: a firmer grip

be vital here in advising, for example, when shoreline populations need to be evacuated.

Dr Cormack has a patch of sea 30 miles off Lowestoft where what he calls a variety of "floaters, sinkers, dispersers and volatiles" are tested in water in the hope that ways of dealing with them can be found and the knowledge stored in that computer.

But Dr Cormack, a calm, dry Scot, is not a member of the downwatch brigade. He does not wish to terrorize coastal populations with disaster talk. "After all," he says, "chemicals are just a fact of life. They go down the main street in road trailers." Try putting that in a ministerial statement as the gas cloud moves up the English channel.

Responses to *Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution* (Douglas Cormack, Applied Science Publishers, £45).



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War in the chof

Beirut's ornament aids its torment

From Robert Fisk
Khalde, Lebanon

The two Phalangists were frightened. "Get out. Get out of here," they kept shouting, one of them waving his rifle at us. "We order you out."

The Phalangists above the Damascus highway, the very air seemed to roar and echo with gunfire, and from the hills to the south there rose a thick curtain of blue smoke where the fires had taken hold in the forests.

The younger Phalangist still stood in the road shouting, as if our presence was more dangerous than the shells that hissed overhead. "I order you out," he screamed again and pointed his rifle at our car.

There are orders not to be refused in the foothills of the Chof. The Phalangists, nervous and uncertain, are in danger of losing their hold on the only two sections of the Beirut-Damascus road that are still in their hands. Indeed, their rear gun positions are now firing at the Druze from just 300 yards away from the Lebanese Ministry of Defence.

On the mountain ridges to the east, a line of explosions - presumably rocket fire - rippled along the skyline and a thick plume of white smoke rose majestically from one of the valleys. The vibrations were so strong that there were times it seemed the gunfire came from beneath our feet.

If the Phalangists appeared to be losing, they at least did not present quite the image of importance that we came across in the confines of the Defence Ministry. When we walked in there yesterday morning, we found the windows blown out, wrecked vehicles in the square and soldiers sleeping rough on the glass covered floors.

We knocked on the door of an officer we knew. He was all smiles but knew nothing, not even the identity of the men who were firing the guns that regularly obliterated his words. His colleague was more forthright. "They are probably Phalangists," he said. "But this place is dangerous. Soon the Druze will fire back. You should leave - and don't walk to your car, run."

The mountains that form a semi circle around Beirut were once part of its adornment, a "look of beauty above the brass," modern city. Now they constitute part of its torment, a gun



Armed convoy: A Lebanese Army Jeep with a 105mm recoilless gun leading two armoured personnel carriers into Khalde

platform for the enemies of President Gemayel.

No sooner had we returned to the capital and travelled southwards along the coast road than we found ourselves under shell-fire again, once more from the mountains to the east. "Don't stop," a Lebanese shouted from his sunbaked checkpoint at Ouzai. "Keep driving."

We sought refuge for half an hour in an apartment block that was being repaired after last year's bombardment by the Israelis. The concierge was a small plump man with a moustache and a young and very pretty wife who watched us indifferently from the doorway when we ran inside.

"It's been like this for two days," he said. "Shells here, shells there." He pointed to the road we had left which had just

been bracketed by six mortar rounds. "Want to go on the roof?" the man asked.

We stood on the half-completed balcony at the back, watching the battle for Khalde down the coast where the Lebanese Army were trying to hold their ground under intense Druze rocket fire. Again there was that strange hollow booming sound that appeared to come from somewhere beneath us. The hills to the east were streaming smoke, within which it was possible to make out those small, tell-tale bubbles of flame as Phalangist and Lebanese army shells exploded around the Druze villages.

Off the coast, we could see the US Sixth Fleet steaming along the horizon, a destroyer and a missile cruiser closer to the shore, their guns pointing re-

proachfully towards the mountains.

Always, there were frightened people. On the road to Khalde, a storekeeper still kept his blinds up, selling beer and English cigarettes to the Lebanese troops squatting outside. But he did so to bolster his own self-confidence. "What will happen?" he asked us. "Are the Syrians coming back?"

We took a side road towards the airport and what is fast becoming Beirut's new front line. It was deserted, the terminal half-obscured by smoke that drifted across the quarters of the American Marine contingent of the multinational force.

We paid the briefest of visits to the Marine guard, enough to give anyone the flavour of their morale. "Get out of here, get out," a young officer shouted,

"It's dangerous. We're on 'Condition One'."

There was a tremendous explosion to the south and a cloud of brown smoke and dust shot into the air. Could we not just take protection with the Marines for a few minutes, we asked? "No you can't and get out, get out," the Marine shouted. His face was tired, shocked.

In the city centre, there had been a few banks open and restaurants too. But by the time we returned, the place had shut down, the traffic disappeared. The power had gone again and the drone of generators fought against the echo of the guns.

Thus Beirut endured the second day of the second Lebanese civil war, powerless as usual to combat its own capacity for self-destruction.

Leading article, page 11

The Korean jet disaster

Uniformed Russians fear war - but rally round the flag

From Richard Owen, Moscow

"Will there be war with America?" the pregnant lady in a summer print dress asked, her eyes widening in apprehension.

We were standing by a giant mock-up of a Tupolev 154 outside Park. I had just told her that 269 people died in the jumbo jet tragedy last Thursday, and that President Reagan was "now announcing measures."

"I'm sure we had good reasons," the lady said. "After all, it looked like a spy plane, didn't it, and we have lots of bases in the east."

A toddler played by the Tupolev's wheels, enjoying Moscow's Indian summer. "But they haven't told us much about it. What will Reagan do to us now?"

Mr Reagan is presented to the Soviet public as a slightly deranged warmonger, and Russians are nervous now that they know their armed forces may have oversteered the mark. The Soviet public has only been told piecemeal fashion about the incident, and has still not been told how many were on board the doomed aircraft.

Only alert readers spotted the significance of last Thursday's tiny Tass item on the "disappearance" of an unidentified aircraft off Sakhalin. On Friday and Saturday, when Tass attacked President Reagan and Pravda published a map showing the route the aircraft had taken, it still did not dawn on many Russians that MIGs had intercepted and apparently fired at an unarmed civilian airliner.

They were baffled by growing official talk of "smears" and "provocations." Only on Sunday did items on the affair figure prominently enough in the press and on television for readers and viewers to realize that a big crisis had erupted and that Russia was being criticised for something.

Readers of Colonel-General Semyon Romanov's article in Pravda yesterday finally grasped that the jumbo jet was civilian and that loss of life had been heavy.

The Soviet media do not report details of security matters, let alone both. The Kremlin uses the press as its mouthpiece, and has unfolded its version of events gradually with gaps and oblique hints along the way.

The authorities' view is that the public have no right to know about things which do not concern them. Russians were not told about the outcry over the invasions of Czechoslovakia or Afghanistan, and have still not been told about world anger over the downing of the Korean jumbo jet.

As news none the less trickles in - via Western radio broadcasts, the rumour network and hints in Pravda - the most common reaction is one of shock and fear coupled with an assumption that the official justification must be well founded.

Russians strolling in the park said they did not want war, and brushed aside suggestions that Russia might itself have committed a warlike act.

President Reagan's assertion that the Soviet Union could not be trusted or counted among the civilized nations struck a raw nerve in a society which is permeated by national insecurity and mistrust of foreigners but measures itself against Western standards.

Russians - both officials and private citizens - are often hurt by suggestions that Soviet society is in some respects backward, or that human life is not highly valued, or that its armed forces put security before humanity.

"Don't worry young man," said a black-clad babushka sweeping the path. "They will explain everything. It is better to know. The main thing is to have peace in the world for our children and grandchildren."

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Japanese find debris at sea

Wakkanai, Japan (AP) - Two US Navy vessels and four South Korean fishing boats yesterday joined 14 Japanese patrol boats and US military aircraft in an extensive air-sea search for bodies or debris from the South Korean airliner shot down by the Russians.

The Japanese patrol boat Sorachi had recovered two objects which the officials believed were from the airliner. The objects resembled burnt thermal insulation.

The officials also said that at the time, seven Soviet patrol boats were spotted operating in waters off Moneron Island.

SEOUL: South Korea yesterday said it was investigating the downing of the Korean jumbo jet was on a spying mission when it was shot down by Soviet fighters (Reuters reports).

UK rejects Moscow's explanation

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent
Britain yesterday rejected the Soviet Union's attempt to blame the presence of an American "spy plane" for the attack on the airliner.

Soviet fighters had tracked the airliner for two-and-a-half hours which was plenty of time to make proper identification, the Foreign Office said. But even if they had not, it could not diminish the Soviet Union's responsibility for shooting down a civilian airliner.

Britain had been aware of the general US practice of flying in the area.

Britain was meanwhile in touch with the United States and other allies to coordinate possible sanctions against the Soviet Union, but there was no indication what, if any, the sanctions might be.

Canada awaits results of jail torture inquiry

From John Best, Ottawa

An investigation is being held to determine whether prisoners were mistreated by guards after the riot last year at Archambault penitentiary in Quebec, which claimed five lives.

The inquiry was launched earlier in the summer by the Canadian Commission of Inquiry. Mr Ron Stewart, at the request of the Solicitor-General, Mr Robert Kaplan, Mr Stewart said last week that it will be "a while yet" before it is completed.

In agreeing to the inquiry Mr Kaplan was acceding to a request by Amnesty International, which had sent its own fact-finding mission to the prison, north of Montreal to investigate alleged mistreatment.

Although its report has not been made public, Amnesty said its two-member mission gathered enough evidence to conclude that Canada was obliged under its international human rights commitments to hold a full and impartial investigation.

Two other international human rights organizations have publicly reported that prisoners were tortured and

abused after the disturbance in which three guards were tortured and killed and two prisoners committed suicide by swallowing cyanide.

The Paris-based International Federation of Human Rights alleged that prisoners received severe beatings, were suspended from poles, had their testicles squeezed and their heads shoved down lavatories.

The International Human Rights Law Group, based in Washington, reported that in the weeks after the riot, guards sprayed inmates with tear gas and urinated on their sandwiches.

Mr Stewart withheld detailed comment on his investigation, other than to say he had spent the last two months at Archambault interviewing prisoners, their families, visitors and prison staff. When his report is finished he will present it to Mr Kaplan who has promised to make it public.

Mr Stewart is independent of the Solicitor-General's department, which has jurisdiction over Canada's prison and correction system.

Habre claims to have regained rebel-held land

N'Djamena (AP) - President Habre's Government claimed yesterday that its forces had regained control of a large part of the desert south of the strategic Chad strongpoint of Faya-Largeau.

Mr Soumaila Mahamat, the Information Minister, said government troops had followed up their victory over Libyan-led rebels near the outpost of Oum Chalouba, 200 miles south-east of Faya-Largeau, by striking deep into rebel-held territory.

He said that the Government had recovered control over a radius of more than 60 miles north and west of Oum Chalouba. This would place them nearly half-way from Oum Chalouba to Faya-Largeau.

The minister ridiculed rebel claims to hold the isolated outpost and offered to fly reporters there to see for themselves. He described as pure invention a rebel claim to have repulsed government attacks on Oum Chalouba.

Sri Lanka eases curfew and press gag

Colombo - Press censorship in Sri Lanka has been relaxed, and from today the curfew will be in force for only three hours, from 1 am to 4 am.

Editors and foreign correspondents have been told to exercise self-censorship; the Government is anxious that newspapers should not publish any reports that would cause "disaffection, sedition or incitement" or damage Sri Lanka's image abroad.

The ban on the Sinhalese newspaper, *The Dinakara*, an organ of the opposition Freedom Party, has been lifted.

Malta demand turned down

Madrid - Thirty-four nations attending the European Security Conference refused a Maltese demand for a special session to examine Malta's requirement for greater attention to be paid to Mediterranean security problems (Richard Wittig writes).

Delegates at ambassadorial level were still seeking to break the deadlock last night.

Death demanded for 61 Turks

Istanbul (Reuters) - A military prosecutor demanded death sentences for 61 out of 254 people accused of belonging to the Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Way) organization when their trial opened here.

They are charged with 38 murders, attempting to change the constitutional order, attempted murder, armed attacks and robberies.

Plane found

The wreckage of a Transamerica Hercules aircraft missing since August 28 was found between Dundo and Lucapa in north-eastern Angola. The cause of the crash and the fate of the four Americans and three Angolans on board are unknown.

Protest swim

Thessaloniki (AP) - Three young Turks swam the River Euro between Greece and Turkey and asked for political asylum. They said they were opposed to the military regime.

Brunei talks

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, expects to conclude long-running defence talks with the Sultan of Brunei when he visits the Far East later this month. He will also call at Singapore and Hongkong.

Firing squad

Hongkong - Newspapers carried front-page pictures of the execution by firing-squad of a young Hongkong man and three Chinese for robbing a "Friendship store" across the Chinese border in Shumchun special economic zone.

Lethal weather

Vienna (Reuters) - Seven Austrians died in mountain accidents at the weekend as the weather suddenly changed to snow, fog and rain. Four tourists froze to death in Steiermark and three others slipped on a path in Upper Austria.

Envoy mugged

A Pakistani diplomat, Mr Qutubuddin Aziz, was robbed of £38 at Heathrow airport, London, when he went to see a relative off. The embassy blamed the incident on "non-British miscreants". Last night the Foreign Office expressed regret.

Rig second try

Swanage (AP) - Experts have begun a second attempt to right the oil rig Alexander L. Kiehl, which capsized in March, 1980, to recover dozens of oilworkers' bodies which may be trapped inside. The contractors expect the operation to be completed by next week.

Fatal blaze

Lagos (AP) - Six people were burnt to death and eight others seriously injured when their vehicle was set on fire in the Niger state of Nigeria, apparently for political reasons. Some of the victims were officials of the Federal Electoral Commission.

Exile returns

Santiago (Reuters) - Señor Renán Cruz, a prominent Christian Democrat politician, has returned to Chile from exile, the third since President Pinochet lifted a ban on several hundred exiles.

Unkind cut

Brussels (AP) The Defence Ministry has told female members of the armed forces to wear civilian clothes when they are more than three months pregnant, because budget cuts have left no room to design maternity wear.

College blast

Göttingen (Reuters) - A bomb wrecked a building at Göttingen University, West Germany, but caused no injuries. The so-called Extraordinary University Opposition claimed responsibility.

Scoreboard of death removed from Begin's front door

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

The round-the-clock vigil mounted outside the residence of Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, by demonstrators mourning a massacre scoreboard of the latest Jewish death toll in Lebanon has been abandoned, four months and 41 deaths after it was begun.

The ending of the protest - which some Israelis think contributed to Mr Begin's despondency over the Lebanon war - came not in response to his decision to resign, but as a result of Sunday's repudiation.

The disappearance of the

scoreboard, which had become something of a Jerusalem landmark, was seen as symbolic of the change in Israeli tactics in occupied Lebanon, which has been underscored by the withdrawal to the Awali line.

Mr Uzi Schwarzman, one of two reserve soldiers who organized the vigil, manned on a rota basis by a thousand volunteers, explained yesterday: "We are not satisfied by the repudiation, but since we expect the new status quo to last for several years we are changing tactics and planning monthly demonstrations."

His admission that even Israel's most active doves are not

prepared to sleep indefinitely on the cold paving stones in Balfour Street has highlighted expectations that Israeli forces will remain in occupation of southern Lebanon for an indefinite period.

There have already been signs that the Army plans to organize behind the now consolidated line, with a gradual reduction in Israeli manpower and an increasing reliance on the local militia of Major Saad Haddad, now being boosted in size.

The expanded role envisaged for the major - who is believed by intelligence sources to be suffering from a mystery illness which requires regular periods in hospi-

tal - is symbolized just north of Sidon. There, one of his steel-grey, Second World War surplus Sherman tanks now sits at the Israeli checkpoint guarding the new front-line.

More Haddad men are to be found under a sackcloth awning in the dusty centre of Sidon. According to Israeli sources, the aim is that Israel's control will be similar to that exercised over the buffer zone known as "Haddad land" between 1976 and 1982. Southern Lebanon would be policed and controlled by Major Haddad's forces, boosted by an Israeli headquarters and an advisory and logistics team.

The setting-up of an extended security zone in cooperation with the malleable militia commander would represent a victory for military intelligence over the now abandoned policy advocated by Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

Mr Chaim Hecht, an Israeli journalist who has studied the unprecedented clash between the two intelligence branches, said military intelligence "regarded the Mossad position - which saw a pro-Western Lebanon under the leadership of the late Bashir (Gemayel) and a peace treaty with Israel fantasies, illusions, nonsense."

Secrecy at Cape Town spy trial

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

Even the application for the trial of a South African Navy Commodore and his wife, who are accused of spying for the Soviet Union, to be held in camera was held behind closed doors in the Cape Town Supreme Court yesterday.

Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, aged 47, and his Swiss wife Ruth, aged 41, pleaded not guilty to charges of high treason - which carry the death penalty - but Mr Justice G. G. A. Munick, judge-president of the Cape, ruled that no further details should be disclosed.

Mr D. J. Rossouw, Attorney-General of the Cape, told the judge that the Gerhardts had carried out acts of espionage against South Africa over a period of years.

He said: "This is one of the occasions where the rule of open proceedings should be suspended for reasons of state security."

The arrest of the Gerhardts was announced by Mr P W Botha, the Prime Minister, in Parliament in February. As commander of the naval dockyard at Simonstown, Commodore Gerhardt is believed to have been privy to highly secret



Accused couple: Commodore Dieter Gerhardt and his wife, Ruth, leaving the Supreme Court in Cape Town

information which South Africa shares with Nato about Soviet shipping movements around the Cape.

● EAST LONDON: The Government of the nominally-independent tribal homeland of the Ciskei has banned a black trade union, the South African Allied Workers Union (Reuters reports).

● BIRMINGHAM: Ten people convicted with Mr Ocaso Myetha, a trade unionist and community leader, on charges under the Terrorism Act and for murder were refused leave to appeal against their sentences by the Appeal Court here (AFP reports).

Italians seek out-of-doors refuge from tremors

From John Earle
Rome

Most of the 70,000 inhabitants of Pozzuoli, a coastal town 10 miles west of Naples, are spending their nights in the open because of a series of tremors which have increased in intensity in recent weeks.

The 130 inmates of the women's jail, including some well-known figures from the

Comorra or Mafia underworld, were evacuated yesterday to the main Naples prison.

The authorities have made available 400 tents and 20 buses to provide temporary shelter to those too alarmed to return home, while discussions went on all day at the Naples prefecture about the possibility of taking more permanent measures of protection. About 50 people were treated at

the hospital at the weekend for minor injuries from falling masonry and for shock.

Since July last year, the ground level in the town has risen by 30 inches. The ferry service with the town of Ischia and Procida may have to be switched to another port along the coast, as vessels are having difficulty in berthing at the quayside. Shopkeepers are complaining that business is virtually

at standstill, while interruptions in the electricity supply and the telephone are becoming commonplace.

Pozzuoli is the birthplace of the actress Sophia Loren. It is situated on the outskirts, the Solfatara, a dormant volcano which normally produces nothing more violent than bubbling mud patches and fumes of sulphurous gases.

Feeling shortchanged by the roo dollar

From Tony Dubondia, Melbourne

The dispute over Australia's new dollar coin, the so-called "Roo Dollar", has grown, with unions at the Reserve Bank now printing works in Melbourne

deciding to ban production of the country's new \$100 note unless the Federal Government agrees to reverse its decision to let a South Korean company supply blanks for the coin. The dollar coin is to be introduced next year at the same time as the \$100 note but

the ban by members of the amalgamated metal foundry and shipwrights Union, has thrown the schedule into confusion.

Mr John Halfpenny secretary of the union describes the Government's decision to award the contract for supplying 1,400 tonnes of blanks for the new coins to South Korea as a national disgrace and a betrayal of national interest.

Pope strongly defends teachings on sex

From Our Correspondent, Rome

The Pope, receiving a group of American bishops at his summer residence of Castelgandolfo yesterday, vigorously re-emphasized the traditional Roman Catholic teachings against divorce, premarital sex, homosexual activity, contraception, abortion and women priests.

The compassionate bishop, he said, was called on to oppose any discrimination against women by reason of sex. But the Church's

opposition to the ordination of women was "extraneous to the issue of discrimination and... is linked rather to Christ's design for his priesthood." Bishops must withdraw all support from individuals or groups who promoted the ordination of women.

They should also proclaim the indissolubility of marriage, and "the inconvertibility of pre-marital sex and homosexual activity with God's plan for human love."

مكذمان لامل

Shuttle's bright night landing



Good morning, America: The Challenger crew (from left) Dr Thornton, Lieutenant-Commander Gardner, Lieutenant-Colonel Brindford, Commander Brandenstein and Captain Truly.

Edwards Air Force Base, California (AP)—Challenger and its crew dropped out of the darkness and settled safely on a brilliantly lit desert runway before dawn yesterday ending six flawless days in orbit with the first night landing in the American astronaut programme.

The 100-ton space shuttle appeared suddenly out of a star-filled sky just 30 to 90ft above the runway, the blazing ground lights gleaming off the fuselage.

The crew, commanded by Captain Richard Truly, included America's first black astronaut, Lieutenant-Colonel Guion S. Bluford, the oldest person to fly in space, Dr William Thornton, aged 54, the pilot, Commander Dale Brandenstein, and the mission specialist, Lieutenant-Commander Dale Gardner.

Captain Truly set Challenger down in the centre of a dazzling array of lights which turned the landing strip into artificial day.

Exiled 7 held on return to Pakistan

Islamabad (Reuters) — Armed police arrested seven members of the banned Pakistan People's Party yesterday when they returned to Pakistan to lead a campaign for democracy in their native Punjab province, airport sources said.

Police at the airport checked passengers leaving the Boeing 747 flight from London and escorted the seven away to waiting vans. There was no trouble, the sources told reporters at the airport.

The group, the first of what party officials in London have said are up to 300 Punjabis ready to return, ended self-exile in Britain and West Germany to join protests led by the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy.

Agitation against the military Government of President Zia ul-Haq has been strongest in the southern province of Sind, where at least 29 people have been killed.

The seven who left London on Sunday were: the former Health Minister Mr Mohtashim Qasbi, Mr Muhammad Hanif and Mr Main Pervaz, the Gujranwala district party president Mr Muhammad Ashraf and two party members called in West Germany, Mr Aslam Ghuman and Mr Muhammad Sajjad Akhtar.

Luanda's grim fairy tale Misery despite potential

In the second of three articles RICHARD DOWDEN, recently in Angola, explains why the economy is foundering in one of Africa's most well-endowed countries.

The economy of Angola is like a moral fairy tale in which a pauper inherits a fortune but can never enjoy it. Angola is potentially one of the richest countries in Africa. It has oil, diamonds and other minerals. Parts of it are well watered and fertile and it has rich fishing waters.

But after eight years of independence it has a post-apocalypse air rather than the spirit of a rich nation liberated from the bonds of colonialism. Luanda is by any standards a torpid and squalid slum where sewage leaks into the gutters and hundreds of shacks and offices stand empty. In waste ground lie broken things, many abandoned vehicles left to rot, perhaps for want of a simple spare part. Chickens and goats browse in the backyards of high-rise blocks. To speak of shortages implies there is a basic supply but the government shops are mostly bare and queues form at a rumour of any commodity being rationed out.

Money is not much use. The official exchange rate is 32 kwanzas to the dollar but some people are prepared to pay up to 20 times that amount. A government company official told me that his workers no longer worked for money but for the occasional access to goods in the company shop. Workers then swapped these with goods

Angola Analysis

available to other workers in other companies.

In the countryside, people who once exported food are now suffering from malnutrition and aid workers estimate that more than 600,000 people have been displaced by the war, many of them drifting to urban areas where they cannot support themselves. Infant mortality is estimated at about 200 per thousand.

There are few basic statistics on which to base an analysis of



Mr do Nascimento: Help for neglected peasants.

where things are going wrong but there seem to be three basic causes.

For the Government the war is the main culprit. Not only does Angola spend more than half its foreign exchange on defence but

the whole economy is locked into the war through the emergency plan published last year. Guerrilla attacks have disrupted food supplies from the central highlands and many skilled technicians and administrators have had to work on defence matters rather than development.

The second factor is the absence of trained people. Half a million Portuguese fled at independence and only five per cent of the remaining population was literate. Even minor decisions drift slowly upwards past clerical staff unqualified for their tasks and still using the baroque Portuguese bureaucracy. The third factor is the inappropriately rigid and centralized socialism which, up till now, has prevented people doing things for themselves when the state structures failed.

A new and pragmatic spirit is emerging in Luanda to cope with the economy. In a recent interview with *The Times*, Mr Lopo do Nascimento, Minister of Planning, made it clear that while building socialism remained the fundamental aim with centralized control rigid in some areas, a new liberal regime was going to be tried in others. "Sometimes one's political position comes against economic reality," he said, explaining that there was no ideological barrier to capitalist companies working in Angola and no fundamental reason why Angola should not join the World Bank.

Mr do Nascimento admitted that the peasants were neglected after the revolution.

Tomorrow: Angola's future

French poll shows upsurge of racism

From Diana Goldstein, Paris

A dramatic increase in votes for the extreme right in Sunday's municipal elections in Dreux, to the west of Paris, has highlighted the wave of racist feelings that appears to be sweeping many parts of the country. Nearly a quarter of Dreux's 35,000 inhabitants are immigrants.

The "Union des Droites pour la France" (Union of Citizens of France for France), led by M Jean-Pierre Stirbois, the secretary-general of the National Front, polled a remarkable 17 per cent of the votes — the Front's best election result since its foundation in 1972. It is also the best result for any extreme right-wing grouping for more than 20 years.

M Stirbois based his campaign on the theme of "reverse the immigration trend". The National Front's previous best score was 12.6 per cent, which M Stirbois obtained in the cantonal elections in 1982. But usually the National Front is lucky if it polls more than 2 or 3 per cent of the vote.

The Government's new measures to clamp down on illegal immigrants, announced four days before the Dreux election, seem to have done little to reassure the town's indigenous population (immigrants do not have the right to vote). Most of the National

Front's gains appear to have been at the expense of the left.

The Socialists and Communists who again joined together to form a common list, obtained only 41 per cent of the vote, compared with just over 50 per cent in the municipal elections last March. Those elections were won by the left by just eight votes, but the results were later annulled, and a new election was called for last Sunday.

No single party list has obtained an overall majority, so there will have to be a second poll next Sunday. In the second round, it is the party which obtains the greatest proportion of votes which will be declared the winner.

Mr Jean Hissin, the RPR (Gaullist) leader, the joint opposition list, has already said that he wants to take M Stirbois on to his list in the second round, despite an earlier veto on any National Front-RPR alliance by M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader.

The government's latest measures to clamp down on illegal immigrants, announced four days before the Dreux election, seem to have done little to reassure the town's indigenous population (immigrants do not have the right to vote). Most of the National

Prisoners of conscience



Turkey: Yalcin Kucuk

By Caroline Moorehead

Dr Yalcin Kucuk, a prominent economist who helped to draft Turkey's first five-year plan in the 1960s, has been on a hunger strike in jail. He is believed to have had a heart attack recently.

Dr Kucuk is serving an eight-year sentence for writing a book on the economic problems of Turkey, considered by the authorities to be subversive and inflammatory.

In 1960 he joined the State Planning Organisation, which he had helped to set up after the military coup of that year.

Six years later, by then director of the long-term planning section, he left to lecture at the Middle East Technical University. Later, he moved to Ankara Gaz University.

During the 1970s Dr Kucuk became an active member of the Turkish Socialist Workers' Party, editing for a period, its monthly publication, *Turkiye*. For a while, he was economics editor at *Cumhuriyet* newspaper.

After the military coup of September 1980, Dr Kucuk was dismissed from his post at Ankara Gaz University and, not long afterwards, was arrested.

Since his heart attack this summer Dr Kucuk's condition is said to be critical. He has lost a great deal of weight and has difficulty speaking.



Dr Kucuk: Eight years for writing a book.

Terrorism tactics split Armenians

By Hazhar Telesmanian

A rift has opened within the Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) one of the most determined international terrorist networks of the past decade.

The rift is over the value or even political desirability of indiscriminate violence to put pressure on Turkey, which two-and-a-half million Armenians dispersed throughout the West see as the unrepentant in Turkish Armenia in 1915.

The bomb at the Turkish Airlines desk at Ody airport, on July 15 which killed eight people, acted as the catalyst for the split which has been brewing for several years.

"Moderates" within the organization were so angry that two of them killed two members of the hardline group in Greece, led by Mr Hagop Hagopian, the former leader of ASALA. In retaliation, the agitational faction "arrested" and "executed" two of the moderates.

Mr Hagopian is believed to be in Libya, but he does not stay in one place for long. He is in his late thirties and has fiery energy. The moderates believe that he sends idealistic Armenian youths on suicide missions merely to strengthen his bargaining position with his main financier, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, or anyone else who has an interest in terrorist missions in Western countries.

A spokesman for the moderate wing of the organization in Europe said that before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last year, the moderates were able to limit the organization's foreign missions to attacks upon Turkish diplomats, whom they regard as instruments of Turkish policy and therefore legitimate targets. More than 30 diplomats have been killed by the Armenians over the past 10 years.

The spokesman said that the Israeli invasion had dispersed the leadership of ASALA over Europe and North Africa, and "enabled the fascist gangsters around Hagopian to do what they liked, to bargain with the Libyans and eventually to become the prisoners of their Arab backers".

The moderates have now set up an organization of their own, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Armenia, but in the meantime Mr Hagopian has gained much richer backers and acquired training camps in Libya, which could enable him to continue his activities for many years.

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SPECTRUM

Today's computers can take world class chess-play in their stride, yet it is beyond them to set up the pieces to begin the game. In this second of three articles Piers Burnett examines and explains this paradox

Put simply, it's a digital stalemate

Most of us would ridicule the notion that any comparison could be made between the degree of intelligence required to move pieces about the chessboard in order to win a game at tournament level with that needed to pick the same chessmen out when they are jumbled together in a box and arrange them in order. Chess, we all accept, requires great intelligence: the task of sorting out a random collection of pawns, bishops and knights, on the other hand, could safely be entrusted to a child. Yet the fact is that computer intelligence has shown itself capable of chess playing at the very highest level but has proved quite incapable of mastering the skills involved in the second kind of feat. Sorting out a loose pile of chessmen is, in fact, but a variation of the problem of picking one item out of an unorganized pile, the so-called "bin-picking problem", the solution of which glitters like some elusive mirage on the far horizons of industrial robotics.

The ability to play a reasonable game of chess was one of the most popular objectives that the computer pioneers set for their primitive machines, and game playing in general became one of the main preoccupations of the field that was dignified with the title of "artificial intelligence" after John McCarthy of Stanford University coined the phrase in 1958. The attractions of the chess playing kind of intelligence were clear. The game undeniably demands a high level of intelligence, yet the world within which that intelligence has to be applied, the rules of the game and the geography of the board, is restricted and orderly. Chess demands precisely that logical, linear mode of thought which mathematicians were inclined to consider the paradigm one, and at which the digital computer had been designed to excel.

The computer's success in mastering chess playing, along with its many other accomplishments, led to a heady optimism in the 1960s, which assumed that it would only be a matter of time and inevitable technological advance before all aspects of intelligence succumbed to its all-conquering advance.

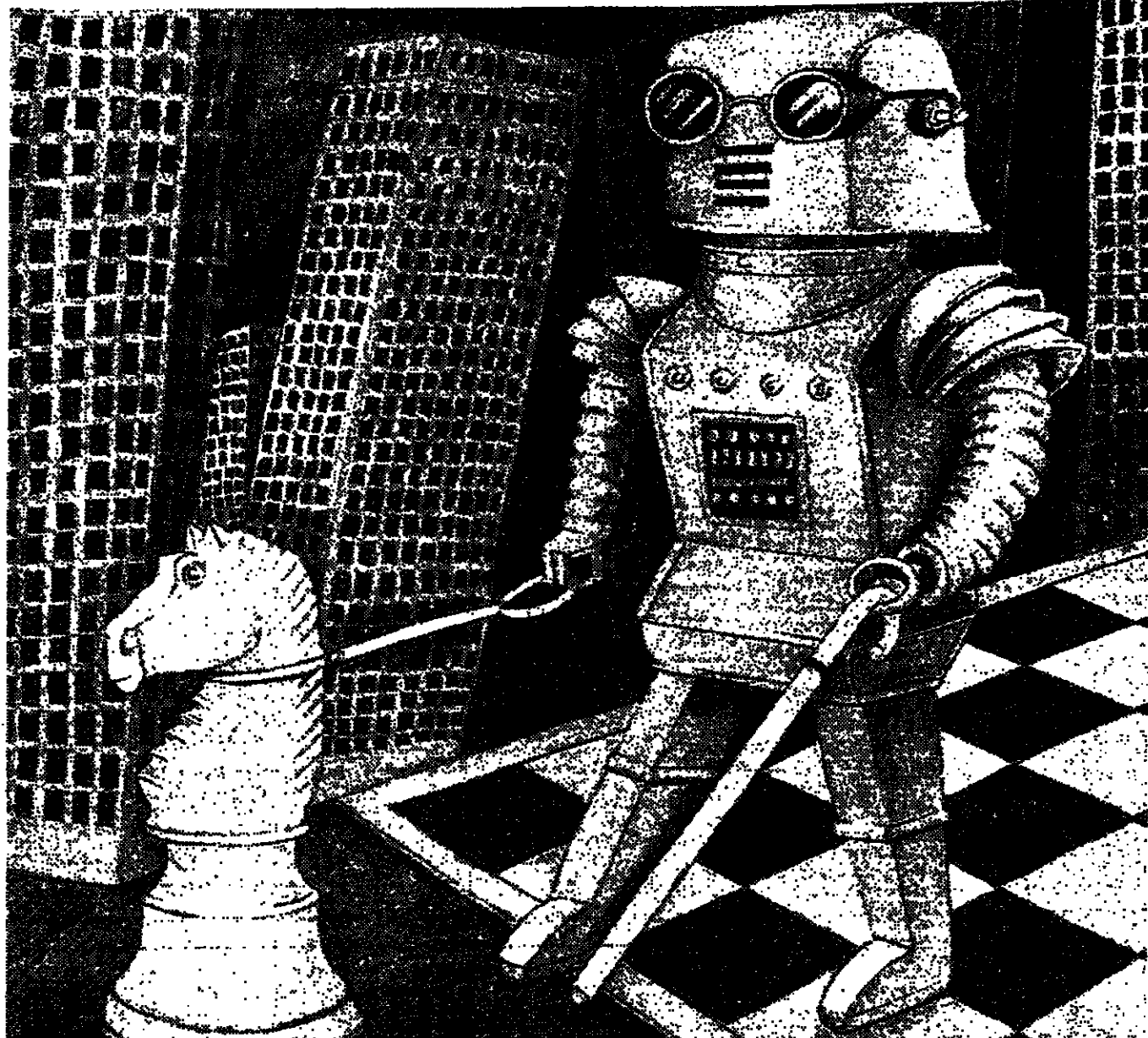
But when artificial intelligence turned its attention to the problems of vision (initially in response to NASA's interest in robot vision for space exploration) and to the solution of "robot task" problems such as the bin picking one, it had to lower its sights from one of the pinnacles of human intelligence to the simplified world of the baby's playpen. It was not until

objects were reduced to the elementary forms of children's building blocks, basic cubes and pyramids, that computers were able to recognize and manipulate them.

The root of the problem lies in the nature of the computer itself. It is a "universal machine", that is it can, in theory, tackle a problem of any kind and its construction does not predispose it to "think" in any particular way. But before it can do anything it must be provided with a program which, in effect, tells it what kind of machine it is required to become in order to deal with the matter in hand. A program is but another name for an algorithm, a set of instructions setting out in detail a definite method of solving a certain kind of problem. The kind of algorithms required by a chess playing computer were worked out at an early stage: essentially they consist of heuristics, or scoring systems, which allow the machine to calculate the consequences of any move in terms of the future moves open to itself and its opponents.

A program or algorithm must, of course, be provided by a human programmer. It is perfectly possible, it is true, to construct a program that it enables the machine to construct further programs for itself; indeed most artificial intelligence work is based on this concept. But though this allows computers to learn to a limited degree, it has not so far provided a basis for learning in a more general sense. A machine that was programmed to understand cricket might, with patience, come to appreciate baseball, but soccer would forever remain an enigma to it. Providing an algorithm for a particular kind of intelligence, even if it aims only to set out the basic principles and leaves the machine free to learn the rest for itself, obviously involves having some firm ideas as to how a human being sets about dealing with the same kinds of problem.

The difficulty with visual perception and the kind of actions we routinely solve by the application of "common sense" is that the algorithms we employ seem to be a good deal more subtle than might at first appear. If asked to explain how we know that a cube is a cube, most of us could dredge up some smattering of schoolroom geometry: we would probably be considerably harder pressed to provide a set of firm rules for distinguishing, say between a Ford Fiesta and a BL Metro, and if asked how we unfailingly recognized a familiar face in a crowd



we would probably deny that we applied any formal set of rules at all. Yet we perform such feats of recognition constantly and without apparent effort. And, to return to the jumble of chessmen, we not only distinguish between a bishop and a knight, even if the set is an unfamiliar one, but we also calculate apparently instantaneously which piece should be picked up first and how best to manoeuvre the hand in order to grasp it.

The work of Terry Winograd at MIT in the early 1970s showed that it is feasible to equip computers with programs which enable them to recognize simple objects, and to decide how they should be manipulated in order to achieve a prescribed result. But it has not been possible to build on this in order to produce machines that serve practical purposes in the real world. The kind of program which can distinguish between a cube and a pyramid when both are presented head on cannot, for example, be extended to reliably sort nuts from bolts when they are mixed up. In the 1970s, the failure to break out of the artificial world of simple shapes into the real world of complex ones finally burst the bubble of optimism which expanded in the 1960s. The man who applied the sharpest pin was a British mathematician, Sir James Lighthill.

Lighthill, who had been asked by the Science Research Council to prepare a report on the practical prospects of contemporary artificial intelligence research, identified a problem which he considered insurmountable. In essence, the difficulty lies in the fact that, although the possible combination of positions on a chessboard is virtually infinite, the rules which define them are limited. In contrast, the number of ways in which a set of chessmen can fall into place in a heap is also infinite, but there are no clear rules to define them. When objects are

transposed from some artificially ordered world, such as a chessboard, to the "real world", Lighthill suggested, they are subject to a "combinatorial explosion" which resists description by any formal algorithmic method.

The combinatorial explosion, of course, has very serious implications indeed for the practical business of building industrial robots. If robots are never going to be able to cope with an untidy workbench or a collection of components stacked higgledy-piggledy in a box, then the chances of them becoming truly flexible and adaptive workers are greatly diminished. But the existence of the problems which Lighthill identified raises other, more profound questions. If the combinatorial explosion places a limit on robotics, why does it apparently pose no problem to human beings?

One answer to this question has been suggested, in the rather different context of language using computer programs, by the British philosopher, John Searle. In a now famous paper, *Minds, Brains and Programs*, Searle argued that the heart of the matter is the model of intelligence that AI has chosen (or rather been forced by the nature of the computer) to adopt. This model has become known as the "top-down" one: the point being that it assumes that intelligence can be defined in terms of formal rules, such as those which govern the playing of chess.

These rules are, of necessity, deductive: they set out the general principles on which particular cases are to be tackled. In the case of language, Searle argued, this puts a computer in the position of a student who has mastered all the grammatical and syntactical rules of a language, but has no grasp of its meaning. We should not be surprised at the kind of computerspeak that machines produce, sentences such as "High shiny theories walk warmly

in the garden", because the meaning of words is something that can only be learnt by induction.

But any attempt to program robots with brains based on the traditional computer model to learn by induction, by the accumulation of experience, runs head on into the problems of the combinatorial explosion. In order for the computer to learn, it must be provided with a program which gives it the rules for learning - the problem could be compared with that of teaching a six-year-old to ride a bicycle by describing the principles of dynamics which govern the stability of bicycles.

The obvious response is, of course, that we simply do not learn in that way. To take another example, the knack of balancing a broomstick upright on the end of a finger involves essentially the same trick as keeping a rocket upright during its launch phase - the main difference being that the rocket, unlike the broomstick, is prone to rotate about its own axis. Yet the latter feat involves whole banks of computers solving sequences of complex equations while the average child, innocent of anything but simple arithmetic, can master the former with a few minutes' practice.

The third article of this series examines the possibility of a quite different approach to the problem of endowing machines with intelligence, that based on the "bottom-up" principle of studying and trying to reproduce the logical structure of the human brain, on the assumption that a machine which works like a brain will, like a brain, learn without having to be supplied with prepackaged intelligence in the form of a program. Piers Burnett is the co-author, with Igor Aleksander, of *Reinventing Man: The Robot Becomes Reality to be published by Kogan Page later this year.*

moreover...
Miles Kington

A touch of fighting talk

The other day I overheard an American saying: "Give me a shot of Scotch" and it occurred to me yet again to wonder why, although we can almost always understand what Americans are saying, they often say things in a way we never would. Part of it, I think is due to the violence inherent in the way they phrase things. There must be something satisfyingly melodramatic about asking for a shot or slug of whisky rather than a glass or a wee dram, as if every act of drinking was a small piece of personal combat.

I've also heard Americans asking to be hit with a drink - "Hit me with a shot of Scotch," they plead. When the deed is done and the glass lies there empty, they don't say the drink is finished; they tend to say it is dead. Let me freshen it up for you, they say, leaning towards your dying glass, completing the violent scenario with the image of a tiny United Nations helicopter flying into revive a drink with the necessary injection.

All very picturesque, but a bit over the top for British tastes.

That's why I find myself slightly disturbed by the new poster designed to get us to eat more eggs. Showing a massive teaspoon about to demolish an inoffensive egg, it shouts: "Go smash an egg", but the only effect it has on me is to make me want to lock my eggs away in the bank for fear of breaking them. We each have our little ritual for breaking and entering boiled eggs, but smashing them is not one of them. It's a bit off. Not quite on, actually. It's not exactly, well, British.

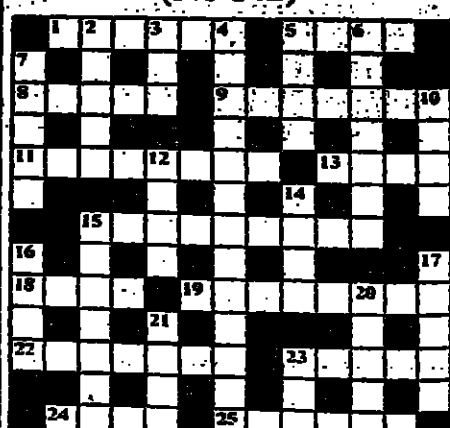
I suspect that because of our non-violent way of talking about violence other nations are taken by surprise when we actually go to war. The diplomatic furrowed eyebrow and tut tut noises of the British give no hint of the opening shots to come - Argentina certainly seemed taken aback by the sailing of the Task Force.

What I would like to know, getting back to the Americans, is whether their talk is as violent when they are talking about violence as it is when they are talking about pouring drinks. Is Ronald Reagan, to mention the most obvious example, just shooting a line when he squares up to the Russians or is he really looking for a fight? And if it is just bluster, as I suspect, just a bit of American chest thrusting and jaw jutting, do the Russians know this? And if not, will someone please tell them?

My calm confidence that Mr Reagan is not in fact squaring up for a showdown is only soured by my memory of an incident in his autobiography. In his college days Reagan had to earn his summer vacation money by working as a lifeguard at a large swimming pool. He reckoned that during that time he saved nearly 100 people from drowning, of whom not one ever thanked him. Many, in fact, had turned on him and been angry because he had made them look like fools, which had taught him one lesson in life: nobody is ever grateful for being rescued.

I think Mr Reagan is wrong there. In fact, Mr President if you happen to be reading this, I am willing to commit myself now to being grateful if you save our lives in the future. I don't think I'm totally alone in this. Many Britons feel the same way. We'd all be, you know, really quite grateful, not to put too fine a point on it, actually.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 142)



- ACROSS
1 Not common (6)
2 Curly tightly (5)
3 Decay (3)
4 Perfection (13)
5 Fierce (4)
6 Fine cloth (7)
7 Norwegian sea inlet (5)
8 Stench (4)
9 Waistband (4)
10 Filthy (4)
11 Enchant (7)
12 Cuckoo (4)
13 Romy (5)
14 Dark (3)
15 Marker (4)
16 Information (3)
- DOWN
11 Presidential democracy (8)
12 Island (4)
13 Warlike (9)
14 Noisy quarrels (4)
15 Envy (8)
16 Flammable gas (7)
17 Immature sows (3)
18 Memorandum (4)
19 Soundness of mind (6)

SOLUTION TO No 141
ACROSS: 1 Miscellaneous 9 Edifice 10 Irish 11 And 13 Sump 16 Mias 17 Alters 18 Upon 20 Yet 21 Opate 22 Ante 23 Ache 25 Spa 28 Couch 29 Chimera 30 Permissible
DOWN: 2 Idiom 3 Conf 4 ILEA 5 Void 6 Unlisse 7 Resurgence 8 Cheshire cat 12 Normal 14 Pan 15 Step up 19 Obtrude 20 Yea 24 Creel 25 Sham 26 ACAS 27 Hi fi

Organic alternatives

After all the interminable squabbling between farmers who, understandably, resent people telling them how to do their job and ecologists who, equally understandably, are concerned about the effects of modern farming methods, it is pleasant to record some success in reaching a compromise. Farmers who are uneasy about the indiscriminate use of agrochemicals, but cannot bring themselves to give them up

altogether, are showing increasing interest in the activities of Organic Farmers and Growers, an East Anglia-based cooperative. Although essentially dedicated to wholly biological methods, this organization has opened a secondary grade of membership to farmers prepared to restrict themselves to non-residual agrochemicals which can be shown not to damage the soil or affect the nutritional value of the crop.

The snag is that organic farming is still officially regarded as a fringe activity. Hence, through no fault of their own, the agricultural research institutes, whose paymasters are the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Education and Science, are largely inhibited from

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: AGRICULTURE

looking at alternatives to conventional agrochemicals. Nothing daunted, the organicists, or semi-organicists have come up with a list of recommended substances. In place of ammonium nitrate, perhaps the most controversial of all fertilizers, it recommends nitro-chalk and Chilean nitrate of soda or potash. Lime should be natural chalk or limestone. Liquid seaweed can be used as a foliar feed, and sulphur is said to be excellent for controlling fungal diseases.

These are early days yet and, until the ministry is prepared to fund an impartial evaluation programme, claims remain no more than claims. But a recent issue of *Farming News* quotes a North Yorkshire farmer who this year spent only £17 an acre on agrochemicals for his winter wheat, is confident of yields of up to three tonnes an acre and expects it also to command a premium for high quality.

Vaccine solution?
Scientists in both the United States and Australia have been working on ways of using genetic engineering to produce a synthetic vaccine against foot and mouth disease. An article in a recent issue of the *Australian Veterinary Journal* describes the cloning of genes from the virus in an experimental vaccine which, in demonstration trials with small numbers of pigs and cattle, suggest that it could provide significantly greater immunity than present biologically derived vaccines. In the United States alone some

3,000 million doses of biological vaccine, containing killed or weakened viruses, are administered every year. The British authorities have until now insisted on a ruthless slaughtering policy: to eradicate occasional outbreaks and to keep the country officially free of the disease, but the possibility of one day having to resort to vaccination, if an outbreak got out of control has not been excluded.

Profitable peat
For some reason peat, though for centuries a traditional fuel in Ireland, has seldom attracted much interest in Britain except as a horticultural fertilizer. But now in Scotland, where 821,000 hectares or more than 10 per cent of the total land area is peat farmers are being urged to consider its commercial possibilities. When dried to a 35 per cent moisture content (in its natural state it is more than 90 per cent water), a pound of peat has a calorific value of about 6,000 BTUs, about half that of coal.

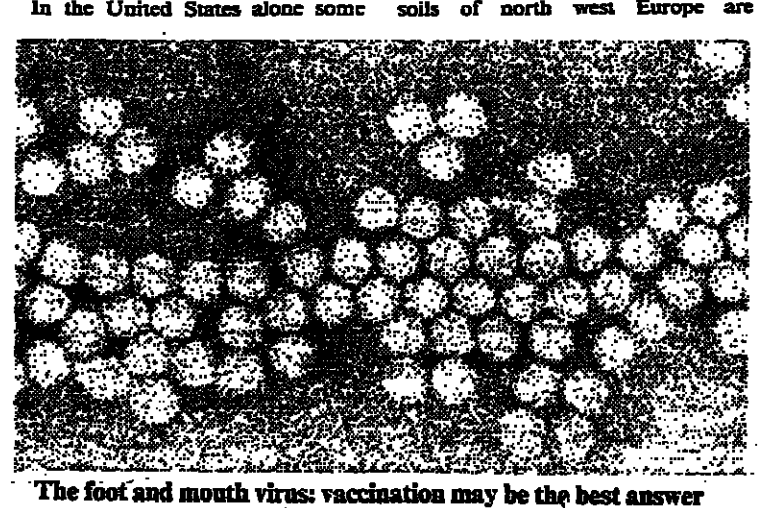
Wild Wheat
Organic methods or not, there has probably never been greater interest among British farmers in wheat growing. Not only has it proved a consistently productive and, at present EEC price levels, a profitable crop, but it has become clear over the last few years that the climate and soils of north west Europe are

conducive to higher yields than almost anywhere else in the world. The latest guide published by the Plant Breeding Institute and the National Seed Development Organization devotes a chapter to breeding for disease resistance. Because of potentially very high yields, fungicides are used more intensively in Britain and northern Europe than elsewhere, it points out, and many farmers apply them prophylactically to control eyespot and foliar diseases.

But pathologists have recently been warning that chemicals which are widely used for long periods will become less effective as insensitive forms of pathogen evolve. For this reason the institute has high hopes that its experiments with *Aegilops ventricosa*, a wild relative of wheat with high resistance to eyespot, may lead to the development of varieties, which will not require fungicide treatment.

Grassroots opinion
A subject of some rivalry between scientists at the Grassland Research Institute at Maidenhead, and at the Agricultural Research Council's Lacombe laboratory, near Wantage, has been their mutual preoccupation with root growth. But the trouble with roots is that they grow out of sight and for the last 40 years researchers have been trying to figure out some way of observing them without destroying them.

The usual method is to take soil cores, separate the roots from the soil and measure them, but this is recognised to be time-consuming, labour intensive and destructive. The Lacombe laboratory has recently been experimenting with transparent glass tubes inserted into the soil; root growth inside the tubes is observed and recorded by a closed circuit television camera coupled to a video cassette recorder. But Mr Robert Collins, a computer programmer at the GRI, describes this somewhat scornfully as a variation of growing beans in a jam jar, since the glass tubes distort the natural root pattern. Mr Collins is planning shortly to do a Ph.D. in computer modelling of root growth and would very much like to hear from readers with any ideas.



The foot and mouth virus: vaccination may be the best answer

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POST CODE

THE TIMES DIARY

Busman's holiday

What does a Foreign Secretary take away for holiday reading? This year it was three documents on how to improve the Diplomatic Service: the Plowden report of 1964, the Duncan report of 1969, and the notorious Berrill report perpetrated by the now defunct Think Tank in 1977. Given that reforming the Foreign Office is only marginally less difficult than refitting the Mary Rose for service as a Thames disco cruiser, it can only wonder what's on Sir Geoffrey's mind, and what kind of mind, come to that, finds such stuff relaxing.

Sporting life

If Jeffrey Archer wrote thrillers about sport, his characters would all behave like John McEnroe. Real life is different, sometimes. Archer says he was "amazed" after the defeat of Kent by Somerset in the NatWest Trophy at Lords on Saturday when Tavere, the Kent captain, came into the Somerset changing room and shook the hand of each player. Kent then sent round a case of "the very best champagne". The event was also witnessed by Archer's fellow Somerset supporter John Cleeve. Both must have been well and truly "amazed" by such potent sportsmanship when I asked Archer what brand he had been drinking, he couldn't remember.

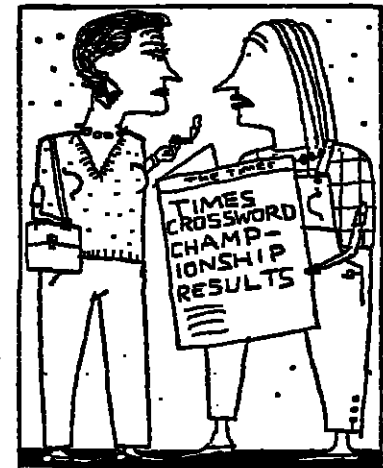
Mongoose tales

Our mongoose correspondent writes: "Paragraphs about mongooses are not to be written lightly. The mongoose is a very special beastie. Some 60 years ago a grocer in Helensburg, Scotland, kept one at complete liberty in his shop. It spent most of the day on the counter, chatting to customers, and was never known to bite man, woman or child. Needless to say, the shop's mice and rat population was zero."

"The Islington lady's experience of a mongoose which accompanied her round the house supported by her bra-strap is totally in character. In my youth I spent many hours in a small zoo in Glasgow where a meerkat (the banded mongoose) and I had a special relationship. My arrival in the place was the signal for a wild vocal display which translated as 'Come on, let me out!' I would button my jacket and hold open my lapel before opening his cage. He would then leap inside my jacket, quickly turn round and nestle comfortably with his head protruding. This supported, he accompanied me round the place. I never knew an animal so eager for human association or so grateful for it."

My informant is Edward Campbell, a kindly Scot who used to be literary editor of the *Evening News* in London. I have a story to tell about him. A book was published about the terrible invasion in pre-Hitler Germany, a although it was not the paper's usual cup of tea, Campbell reckoned it ought to be reviewed. He advanced upon and hapless writer and growled: "I need 500 words on the last days of the Weimar Republic - but keep it light." The *News*, alas, went the way of the Weimar Republic not long after.

BARRY FANTONI



"For the next few days, all I'll get from Gerald is 'Who's hidden the dictionary?'"

Growing pains

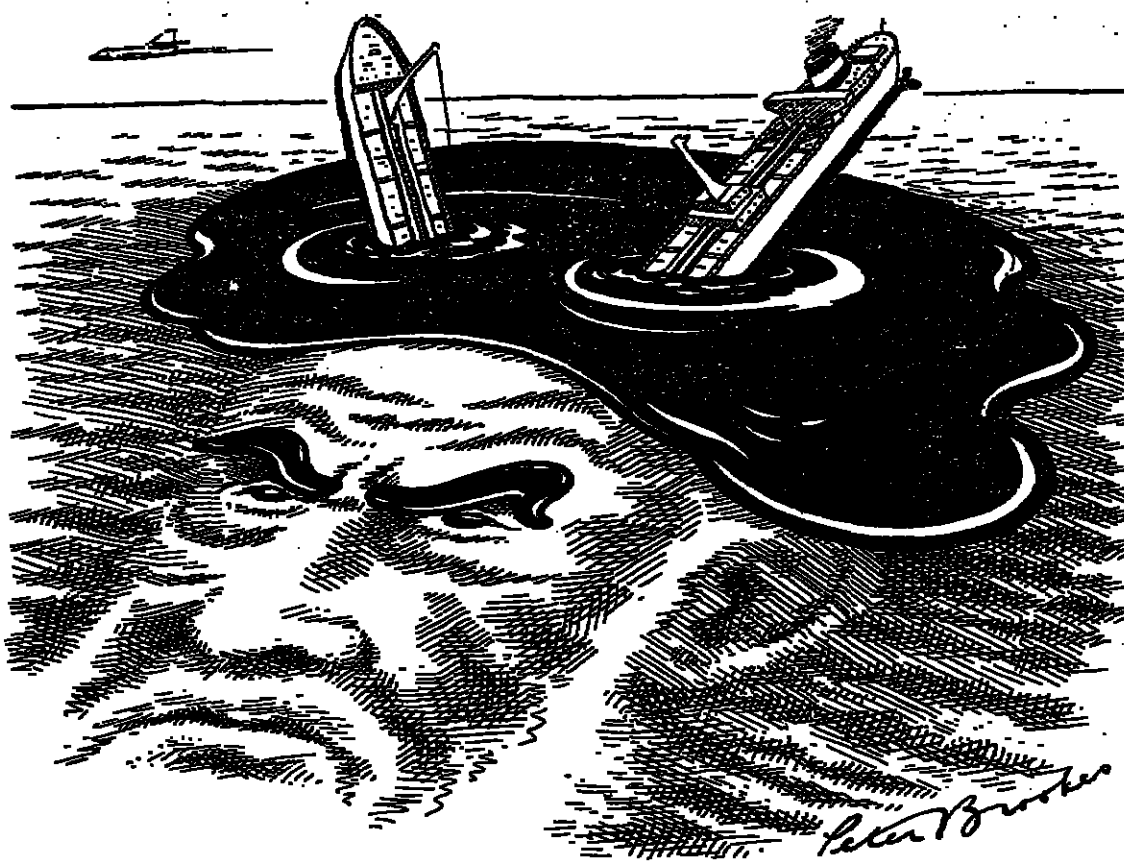
The first year of life has been no bed of roses for *Gardening from Which?*, the Consumers' Association's attempt to get its members back to the soil, which has nevertheless celebrated its birthday issue with the boast that it already has a bigger circulation than any other gardening monthly. Telling tales included a long-term durability test on fruit cages that came to grief because a motorcyclist drove through one; a plant trial on sweetcorn battered into submission by a freak hailstorm; tests on clematis that resulted in the best specimens being stolen; and a woodland test in which a gardener in the park that had agreed to set aside a test plot for CA decided that he didn't like the look of all those weeds and hedges. If only the stories in the magazine were as much fun...



The World Wilderness Congress is a collection of well-meaning souls - who convene every few years to sing the praises of nature in the raw: "Wilderness - A Matter of Spirit", "Wilderness - A Holistic View", "Wilderness - A Global View", that sort of thing. This year's hosts, from whose agenda I have wrenched those delicacies, is to be held on the shores of Finnerhorn Bay, Scotland, next month. Its logo is the Erythrina leaf, surrounded by arrows to indicate the bringing together of peoples from around the world to care about the wilderness and its protection. My tame legume expert at Kew thinks the logo must refer to a large genus of a sub-family of legumes, mainly tropical and sub-tropical and useful for their red seeds (worn as necklaces) and some rather nasty alkaloidal compounds (narcotics). He can only surmise, because "Erythrina" does not appear in any of his reference works, presumably what is meant is "Erythrina". Legumes, of course, are also notorious for generating wind in those who consume them.

PHS

John Witherow on the weapons that could turn the Gulf War



Exocets for Iraq, courtesy of France

Some time this month, unless the French get cold feet, the first of five Super Etendard jets will touch down at an airbase near the northern end of the Gulf. Their arrival will signal a new phase in the Iran-Iraq war that threatens to push the entire region into turmoil.

Baghdad says that the planes, which will be accompanied by re-trained Iraqi Mirage pilots and generous supplies of Exocet missiles, are there for only one reason: to sink tankers. The result of that, they hope, will be to sever Iran's oil exports and force the Ayatollah Khomeini to end the debilitating war that has dragged on for nearly three years.

The repercussions of such a move, however, could go much further than the Middle East. The worst consequence, say western strategists, would be a wide conflagration in the Gulf and the military intervention of the United States, France and Nato powers. If that happened, there is no telling where the crisis would end.

News of the impending delivery first appeared in *Le Monde* last June. It seemed that France, one of Iraq's major arms suppliers and a country with a huge financial stake in the survival of President Saddam Hussein's regime, had agreed to lend the jets in return for financial commitments and goodwill.

It had already supplied helicopter-launched Exocets, which had been used with some success well before the sea-skimming missile entered the English vocabulary with such impact during the Falklands war. Lloyd's intelligence unit puts the number of ships damaged or sunk during the Gulf conflict at 34, with a further 80 sealed in the Shatt al Arab waterway after the war started in September, 1980.

But the Super Etendards, which will come from France's stockpile of about 60, could dramatically alter the balance. With a superior range as well as their in-flight refuelling capability they could control the northern Gulf, hitting ships at will. Kharg Island, from where most of Iran's oil is exported and which has survived several Iraqi raids largely unscathed, would be a prime target. "Just imagine," said one oil expert, "if they blew up a tanker loading at the island. It could devastate Iran's oil exports."

Even if such an attack failed, consistent raids on tankers would lead to prohibitive insurance rates, which have already increased 150-fold since the war started, and would deter owners or crews from entering the war zone.

"We don't care which nationality of ships we attack. They should think 10 times before they enter the area," an Iraqi government spokesman said. "This is an economic as well as military war. Iran has cut our oil exports so we will cut theirs."

It took Iran a while to react to the news but when it did it was in uncompromising terms. If the planes were used "it would destroy the security of the Gulf" and "make it unsafe for one ship to enter or exit," it said. There were also threats to retaliate against Iraq's Gulf allies.

These were no idle words. Though Iran's air force is a pale shadow of its former self under the Shah, it can still put 40 advanced fighter-bombers in the air. Kuwait has already suffered three air raids meant as a warning and Iran is quite capable of mining or obstructing the Strait of Hormuz, thus blocking oil exports from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

That contingency was foreseen by the former US President Jimmy Carter, during the Iranian revolution. He warned that if the Strait were blocked the US would intervene. Nothing has been said in Washington to change that commitment. The French, too, have a fleet in the Indian Ocean and may also be tempted to keep access to the Gulf open. Such a move would probably be answered by Iran.

The *Washington Post* reported that the US, in an attempt to improve the situation, had made

"polite inquiries" to the Quai d'Orsay about the aircraft delivery, but there had been no confrontation. An American official said: "The whole idea of sinking a tanker in the Gulf is regarded very seriously by us. Providing this equipment is not very helpful." Still, he added, the French would "do what they want to do."

The possible implications of the loan, however, have led to differences in the French administration. The Finance Ministry and some senior military officers are said to be opposed, pointing to the unfavourable terms and possible repercussions. With France's involvement in Chad, the political consequences must also be weighing on the mind of President Francois Mitterrand. But those in favour point to the importance of maintaining good relations with Baghdad and argue that the planes and missiles could help end the war, rather than escalate it.

With this in mind, western observers are divided about whether President Saddam Hussein will indiscriminately attack shipping in the northern Gulf. He has consistently sought peace but has been rebuffed by Khomeini, who has demanded his overthrow and huge war reparations of up to £100 billion.

To make matters worse, Iraq's oil exports have been cut to one third of Iran's and there are signs of low morale among the million-strong armed forces, which have been on the defensive in harsh desert conditions. Iraq has managed to fight on only with the aid of its Gulf allies, who initially saw the conflict as Iran's fundamentalist brand of Islam. Their enthusiasm is waning, however, and they want a solution almost as much as Baghdad.

An oil company executive said: "Saddam's best chance is to threaten to escalate the war to force Tehran to negotiate. The war is much more damaging to Iraq and Khomeini seems prepared to accept steady attrition. The Iraqis are very, very desperate. They feel the Iranians won't give them an inch so they have little to lose."

"Even if the war is escalating with the involvement of the superpowers Saddam may use it to his advantage to get them to make Khomeini settle."

Others are more sceptical. An expert on Kuwait said the country is worried about the threat and is strengthening its air defences. But he added: "I can't see Saddam stepping up the war right away. If it leads to retaliation against his Gulf allies, he'll be discredited. And he's not such a fool."

An Iranian observer also played down the threat. "It's part of a call-my-bluff game," he said. "Iraq is hoping to alarm the Gulf states so much that they will cough up more money. If they did start hitting tankers it would lead to even worse pollution than already exists in the Gulf and would make the French international terrorists by proxy."

However the Institute of Strategic Studies in London is treating the problem more seriously. It points out that Iran is developing oil exporting ports farther south but might well retaliate to any Exocet attacks. "At the moment it's a cause for concern, not alarm," one expert commented.

The Iraqis, meanwhile, remain adamant the Super Etendards will be used. "We're not taking the planes out just to polish them," one said.

David Marquand

Now we must turn hope into votes

As the Alliance parties prepare for their conferences this month, they face a much more formidable challenge than either has yet admitted. In the past few weeks, we have heard a great deal about the pros and cons of a merger between the Liberal Party and the SDP. We have heard hardly anything about the purposes which a merged party - or, for that matter, two unmerged parties - should pursue. Yet if the election has taught us anything, it should have taught us that at this stage in our history purpose needs more attention than structure.

In the long run, merger seems to me not only desirable, but inevitable. In the short run, it is a distraction. The really urgent task is to decide where we want to go. If we do that properly, the question of what vehicle to travel in will answer itself.

For there is a paradox in the election results, which we ignore at our peril. The familiar, class-based party system, which the Alliance came into being to destroy, is now disintegrating. But it is Mrs Thatcher who has played the piece, not David Owen or David Steele. Penitence notwithstanding, there is in fact an ominous parallel between the electoral realignment that took place 60 years ago, when the old Liberal Party lost its place to Labour, and the realignment taking place today.

In 1914 the Conservatives were divided, demoralized and intellectually bankrupt. They had lost the last three general elections and seemed set to lose the next. Yet the collapse of the Liberal Party after 1918 led to 20 years of Conservative hegemony. Now it is Labour's turn to collapse, and once again the Conservatives are the chief beneficiaries.

Mrs Thatcher has not yet emulated her party's interwar achievement, but she is the first prime minister in modern times to win an increased majority after serving in that office throughout a normal-length Parliament. And only the very rich or the very rash would bet much money on a Conservative defeat in 1987 or 1988.

That is only the beginning of the story. The interwar Conservative Party may have been uninspiring and unadventurous, but it was not illiberal. It earned its electoral success by sedulous cultivation of the middle ground, Mrs Thatcher has treated the middle ground with contempt. Where previous Conservative governments have stood for consolidation and continuity, hers stands, quite explicitly, for a counter-revolution. In place of the broad-minded, easy-going scepticism which has been the hallmark of the British Conservative Party for most of its history, it offers a narrow fundamentalism; in place of *noblesse oblige* Tory reformism, a hard, self-centred acquisitiveness, more reminiscent of the French right between the wars than of anything in the British political tradition.

Yet it has won. It has won, moreover, because and not in spite of its break with past Conservative practice. For the last thing the British people now want is consolidation. They do not want a full-blown counter-revolution, but they want continuity even less. Mrs Thatcher's fundamentalism alarms them, but they applaud her determination to have

done with the apologetic and arbitrary conservatism of the 1960s and 1970s. Unlike her, they still adhere to the essential liberal values of tolerance, fair play and respect for others. Like her, however, they know that the earlier paternalists, Bunsellite liberalism of 30 years ago has broken down. They do not share her contempt for the very notion of the middle ground, but they can see as clearly as she does that the middle ground of the past 20 years has become a kind of political black hole, down which those who try to stand on it plunge into nothingness.

Hence the challenge of the Alliance. Given all this, Labour's doom is irreversible. Trotskyite infiltration and Michael Foot's leadership merely set the seal on its defeat.

The Labour Party is a child of the collectivist epoch which is now coming to an end. If the choice is between Thatcherism and Labourism, Thatcherism has power on a plane.

The Alliance is thus the last, best hope of all those who cannot stomach the prospect of a 20-year Thatcherite hegemony. All those who persist in believing that individual freedom can go hand in hand with social justice, and that a society can be efficient and successful without being callous or selfish. To realize that hope, however, the Alliance must belong as unambiguously to the new post-collectivist epoch as Mrs Thatcher does. There is no point in trying to be a sanitized Labour Party without the left.

The answer to Mrs Thatcher's market Toryism is market socialism, not Fabian interventionism. The Alliance should be more determined to strengthen competition, widen choice and break up monopolies than she is, not less. It should also be more determined than the Labour Party to redistribute resources to the poor, and to return power and self-respect to the old industrial regions.

Like all political groupings with any pretensions to mass appeal, however, the Alliance is a coalition - not just between two parties, but between a variety of tendencies in each of its parties. The Liberal Party is a coalition of new-style community politicians and old-style, middle-ground moderates. The SDP is a coalition of new-style, decentralist radicals and old-style Fabian interventionists, with a dash of managerial technocrats to complicate the mixture. In each party, perhaps in each member of each party, the future pulls against the past. So far, the outcome has been a draw. The individual policies which we put forward last June were remarkably free of the fudge which is an inescapable ingredient of all election manifestos. The aggregate was marred by a fatal ambiguity. On the central issue of the age - the issue of collectivism versus neo-individualism, of statism versus decentralism - we found both ways.

We have pauseless excuses. The two crumpled years between the formation of the Alliance and the election were too short to hammer out a coherent and comprehensive decentralist alternative to Thatcherism; in the tug-of-war between the future and the past, the past therefore had more weight. But the excuses are running thin. The time to start hammering is now.

The author is a member of the SDP National Committee.

Roger Scruton

A colonial inheritance once again cast off

Last week several air force officers, arranged before the High Court of Zimbabwe on charges of sabotage, were acquitted, after a long trial in which the defence plausibly claimed that the accused had confessed under torture. The verdict, composed and justified according to the most scrupulous legal practice, was a model of judicial rectitude, and Mr Justice Dumbutshena deserves the highest praise for his courage and integrity in delivering it. Besides doing justice to himself, however, Mr Justice Dumbutshena does credit to his country; he shows - what otherwise might be doubted - that it is quite possible for Zimbabwe to govern itself by a rule of law.

Or is it? No sooner had the verdict been issued, than the officers in question were rearrested, under a warrant issued by Dr Ushewokuzze, the Minister of Home Affairs. This warrant permits the retention of the former accused for an indefinite period, without trial. In other words, the state has chosen to declare that it will not be governed by the decision of its judges, and that it has its own way of dealing with those who have aroused its displeasure. This blatant mockery of the judicial process is not the first instance of its kind in Zimbabwe. Nor will it be the last. In the meantime, the government has expressed its impatience with constitutional niceties, and its determination to have its own way, regardless of law.

Judicial independence is not a luxury. On the contrary, it is the cornerstone of constitutional government. It has now disappeared from most of central and southern Africa, and from the communist states - this fact alone should suffice to remind us of its political importance. Without judicial independence no citizen has the legal means to oppose the state, and should it choose to attack him. Nor can the state perceive opposition to its executive commands as other than treasonable. When the Polish government finally decided to crush Solidarity, it was after the union had called for an independent judiciary; the state then realized that it was being asked to take opposition seriously, by granting it the mantle of law.

When an independent judiciary exists the state leads its sovereign power to upholding the decisions of the law courts, regardless of their content. The judge, through his verdict, is able to set the state against itself and so to limit its power. Without judicial independence the power of the state is limited not by the law but by some other and less accessible factor - such as the power of a party, faction or pressure group. This second kind of limitation closes government to the ordinary man. He can no longer really protect himself

against the powers that be. If he does not have the luck to belong to an influential faction, then his rights may be disregarded, whenever they hamper the executive command. Indeed, in the absence of judicial independence, there are no real civil rights, but only intermediate privileges, available to those with the influence to obtain them.

Virtually all modern states have "constitutions". That is to say, they have pieces of paper which are so described, and which purport to specify the procedures of government, the rights of the citizen, the powers of the executive, and so on. These documents are all lodged in that haven of mendacity, the United Nations, where they bear witness to the extraordinary power of paper over the modern intelligence.

In fact, without an independent judiciary, these pieces of paper are meaningless. What is the significance of a document stating my rights against the state, when there is no judge to whom I can appeal to enforce it, except one who is controlled or overruled by the executive power, whenever it has an interest in the outcome? It is clear that a state with a written "constitution" but without an independent judiciary - a state dedicated to the idea of "people's justice" on the Soviet model - does not really have a constitution. Conversely one like the United Kingdom, which lacks a written constitution, but possesses an independent judiciary, is for that reason alone constitutional.

A developed legal system, with elaborate common law rights, and supported by a system of natural justice, was the most precious legacy of our empire. If it were still permissible to defend colonialism, I should justify it in terms of this bequest, and as the same time contrast the colonization of Africa with the Soviet "colonization" of eastern Europe, which has advanced not by the generation but by the destruction of law.

Of course, judicial independence is difficult to achieve, since it requires that the power which appoints a judge must also be prepared to yield to him. Maybe we should not expect a new country like Zimbabwe to sustain such success. Perhaps only a long history of public spirit and civic virtue will enable the citizens of Zimbabwe to rediscover this precious inheritance. Meanwhile, however, we ought to allow ourselves to see, in such as Mr Justice Dumbutshena, just what the government of Zimbabwe stands to lose. In threatening to discard judicial independence, Zimbabwe threatens not only to discard what is most valuable in its colonial inheritance, but also to exclude the most virtuous of its citizens from power.

Bernard Levin: The way we live now

Reflections after a glassy reception

This is a tale of two glaziers, and I rather think that there is a moral in it.

The other day, a sashcord parted. This once happened to me, many years ago, when I had both my hands on the window sill; not only was I obliged there and then to give up all hopes of a career as a concert pianist, but I faced in addition the prospect of starving to death, as I was quite unable at first to extract either of my damaged hands, let alone both. Eventually, I managed to get one out, damaging it considerably more in the process, and reach behind me to the draining board - the incident occurred in the kitchen - for a spoon, with which I managed to lever the window up far enough for me to extract my other hand, or what was left of it.

Very horrid. This time, however, I was nowhere near the window when it happened, but he was not helpful. The same I saw that the glass in the window that had so abruptly descended was cracked, I needed, therefore, two separate repairs, and I hid me to the Yellow Pages. There being no entry under "Sashcords", I deduced that he who provides the glass in windows that has so abruptly descended was cracked, I needed, therefore, two separate repairs, and I hid me to the Yellow Pages. There being no entry under "Sashcords", I deduced that he who provides the glass in windows that has so abruptly descended was cracked, I needed, therefore, two separate repairs, and I hid me to the Yellow Pages.

Tomorrow afternoon dawned; well, I suppose an afternoon can't dawn, strictly speaking, but you know what I mean. But it not only dawned; it rained, and throughout its waning no one arrived to fix my window. I rang the D & K Glass Company ("Dilatory and Kausal"? "Don't and Kare"? "Double and Kross"? and made gentle moan about my window to the

sensible-sounding lady. She went on sounding sensible, and helpful in the bargain, but appeared to be under the impression that the appointment had been made for the following morning. No, I explained, the visitor and I had discussed various possibilities, including that one, but we had finally settled on our mutual satisfaction, on the afternoon which was even then moving peacefully towards its close. Well, mistakes can be made, though in this case they hadn't been (the young man had been quite clear about the appointment, which had then been confirmed with my secretary). Anyway Higher Authority was brought to the telephone, in the person of a gentleman with a Scots accent, who seemed to be the boss. There was no clue in his words as to whether he was sensible, but it speedily became apparent that he was not helpful. He explained the problem. "Well, what do ye want?" he asked brusquely. I wanted, I replied with a moderation that astonished me, someone to fix my window - which was, I pointed out mildly, what his firm had agreed to do. "Well, we'd better just finally settle it," he replied. "But your representative", I went on with more relentless logic.

"Oh, the difference of man and man," says General in *King Lear*; she was obviously thinking of glaziers; but so, at the moment, am I.

Look here upon this picture, and on this. Clearly, the D & K Glass Company have got at least as much work as they can handle, and want no more; they have therefore devised a method of driving potential customers away which, though it is a little lacking in charm, certainly works. I conclude that, whatever the effects of the recession on other trades, it leaves the glaziers sitting pretty; possibly the recession in other trades is such that more and more businessmen are jumping out of windows without bothering to open them first.

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us. I raised my head above the parapet. How long might the whole job take? An hour, perhaps an hour and a half. I await your arrival, I said, with the keenest anticipation. Right, mum, they replied.

They had said they would arrive within the hour; they arrived - they being a man and a boy - within 35 minutes. They had said that they would need no prior measuring, as they would bring with them everything necessary; they were as good as their word. They had said that the job would take an hour to an hour and a half; it took 45 minutes - indeed, I had just put the kettle on to make us all a cup of tea when they announced that the job was done, and could they have a dustpan and brush to clear up?

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transaction. They hold themselves out to repair windows and sashcords; I wanted mine repaired; I was willing to pay their price; there was nothing more to it.

But there was more to it, for Saunders was willing to do the job, and D & K apparently were not. Now just as gratitude does not enter into it, nor does the horrible servility once offered by suppliers to customers (and indeed sometimes demanded by customers of suppliers) as the only means of being assured of the custom; recession or no recession, those days have gone for ever.

We must devise a means of restoring 'profit' to its former esteem

ever, and a very good thing too. They have been replaced by a much better and more useful standard; the glazier is now between those who are willing to be efficient and those who are not. But the new standard has introduced a new mystery: why are some people and firms unwilling to be efficient? If you are in business, you presumably want to succeed, whatever your business may be. But plainly some in business are quite indifferent to success; having pondered long upon this extraordinary state of affairs, I have come to the conclusion that when the stick of real ruin was burnt, rightly, on a bonfire of changed attitudes, the carrot of profit came to be insufficiently sweet to achieve the same purpose. Once, you earned a sausage or you starved; now, since no one starves, many do not care whether they earn a second sausage or not.

We have created a new Morton's Fork, but it will not serve for eating sausages off. We cannot return to the days when the only choices were work or workhouse. But we have to devise a means of restoring the word 'profit' to its esteem it once had but has since lost under the incessant assault of political philosophies which teach that we can all live like Elijah, fed by the ravens. Rather a large conclusion, perhaps, to draw from my tale of two glaziers. Still, I did warn you that there was a moral in it.

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CIVIL WAR IN THE CHOUF

Lebanese government officials were reported yesterday as claiming they had been given no warning of the Israeli pull-back from the Chouf mountains. One understands their frustration at the reality of this withdrawal, and the government's inability to cope, but the charge is manifestly absurd. The Israelis have been talking about a partial withdrawal all summer, and their decision to go ahead with it was officially announced on July 20. Since then they have twice postponed it, on urgent American and Lebanese request, while making it clear that they were determined to move before the Jewish New Year, which falls on Thursday.

Israel can be legitimately criticized not for withdrawing in a hurry but for her actions and inactions in the Chouf while she was there. It was the Israelis who after occupying the Chouf without resistance from the Druze militias then controlling it, first year allowed armed Phalangists from other parts of Lebanon to enter the area; and it is the Israelis, latterly, who have been turning a blind eye while in Druze brought heavy weapons into the area and used them to shell Beirut airport.

Israel, usually more than ready to denounce "terrorism" and to arrest those suspected of involvement in it, has allowed a gradually escalating war of kidnapping and shelling to go on in an area where she had assumed responsibility for maintaining order, without making the slightest attempt to disarm either of the parties involved. If Israel had wanted her departure from the Chouf to be followed by a bloodbath, she would hardly have acted otherwise.

A bloodbath is now happening. The Lebanese government would like the world to believe that it is not a civil war, but something fomented and imposed on Lebanon by outside forces. It is true that outside forces have their hand in it: the responsibility of Syria, as usual, is heavy. Syria has armed the Druze and encouraged them to defy the authority of President Gemayel's government. Syrian troops remain in occupation of the northern half of Lebanon, now in defiance of an explicit and formal request from the Lebanese government, so that the fiction that they are there by invitation of the lawful government is no longer tenable; and it was from Damascus yesterday that Mr. Walid Jumblatt, the Lebanese Druze leader, generously offered to make his country "another Vietnam".

But the actual fighting is now between Lebanese citizens on both sides. What is happening is even more clearly a civil war than the events of 1975-6, for the Muslim side for the left, or the National Movement, or whatever one likes to call it no longer has Palestinian allies fighting alongside it.

It is also a more conventional civil war in that the government and state apparatus are now on one side, instead of being uneasily neutral as they were then, and the army of the state is doing a significant part of the fighting, thanks to the intensive American training it has had in the past year. The Americans, who went in as a peacekeeping force, must be beginning to feel more at home as the conflict rearranges itself along Vietnamese or Salvadoran lines. If they are not very careful they, and our own gallant ninety-seven along with them, will soon be fighting the war themselves; at which point the other side in its turn will claim that this is not a civil war but a war against American occupation.

WAVES FROM THE SEA OF JAPAN

When assessing the political damage done by the destruction of the South Korean airliner, Mr. Andropov would do well to consider the effects on Soviet policy towards East Asia. Leaders of the two countries most recently concerned, South Korea and Japan, have condemned the shooting down of the airliner in outspoken terms. Premier Nakasone of Japan has described it as an unpardonable and barbarous act, and President Chun Doo-hwan in South Korea has used even stiffer language. Even the Chinese have spoken of Moscow's "effrontery", though in line with the more moderate one that they are taking nowadays towards the Soviet Union, they have not condemned its action outright.

No doubt there are those in the Kremlin prepared to shrug off the expressions of outrage to which the Japanese and South Koreans have given vent. After all, Moscow does not even recognize the Government of South Korea, while it professes to regard the Nakasone Administration as little more than a cat's-paw of Washington. But more prudent counsels should prevail. It is not in the interests of the Soviet Union to antagonize the Japanese and South Koreans as it has done during the past six days, thus increasing the tension in this volatile region of the Far East.

The effect of the incident on Soviet-South Korean relations will be to undermine the limited degree of trust built up between

the two sides during the last decade or so, and especially during the last twelve months. Moscow and Seoul are still deeply suspicious of each other's intentions. But in spite of its truculent North Korean ally, Moscow—like Peking—is in no hurry to change the status quo on the Korean peninsula.

Consequently there has been a series of semi-official exchanges between Moscow and Seoul during the last few years, and the South Korean foreign minister recently expressed the hope that Seoul might pursue a "nordpolitik" similar to West Germany's "ostpolitik" of the early 1970s. The airliner crash will effectively bring this process to a halt, though President Chun may be hardheaded enough to revive it once indignation over the crash has subsided.

The implications of the crash for Soviet-Japanese relations are more striking. Senior Japanese officials have stressed that despite the widespread revulsion felt in Japan, the incident should not be allowed to affect overall relations with the Soviet Union. In this respect Tokyo may differ somewhat from Washington, just as it did, say, with regard to sanctions over Poland. Even so, the incident is bound to aggravate the existing strains between Tokyo and Moscow. It will strengthen the hand of Mr. Nakasone, who takes a hostile view of the Soviet Union, and wants to build up Japan's defences while bolstering its alliance with the United States.

And it will render Soviet hopes of a more neutral, less pro-American Japan even more forlorn than they are now.

The circumstances surrounding the crash will have given people in Japan an unusually graphic impression of Soviet military power. After all, the airliner was apparently shot down just off the southern end of Sakhalin island, a Soviet military stronghold less than thirty miles from the northernmost Japanese island of Hokkaido. The four Soviet-occupied islands at the southern end of the Kurile island chain, claimed by Japan as its Northern Territories, come even closer to Hokkaido than Sakhalin does. Since the late 1970s the Russians have fortified these disputed islands, despite protests from Japan, and the impact of this development on Japan's own security will be even more apparent now than it was a week ago.

In addition, the Japanese will note the manner in which Soviet diplomacy has been conducted during the past six days. Soviet officials have signally failed to respond to Tokyo's urgent requests for information, and Japanese ships have been prevented from going to the scene of the crash to search for survivors. None of this will impress the Japanese in the least. Indeed, it is hard to think of a sequence of events more calculated to upset Japanese sensibilities, and less likely to further Moscow's political objectives.

FALSE CONFIDENCE

Information is the raw material of democracy. By the standards of the Western world, Britain, the most mature democracy, suffers from acute data deprivation. On even the biggest issues the secrecy of the government machine makes sure the citizen is not in a position to make an informed judgment between alternatives until policy has hardened.

The Thatcher administration is in the process of looking beyond the three-year horizon of its standard public expenditure survey cycle, to the late 1980s and early 1990s. Secret Treasury figures show an alarming disparity between the cost of public services and the wherewithal to fund them after 1986—assuming the continuation of present provision and the Government's refusal to allow public borrowing to rise substantially. The choices made by the Cabinet about what shall be cut and where have large implications for the health, education, welfare and safety of all, not to mention the security of the realm from external aggression.

It would be difficult to think of an exercise of public administration that touched more directly upon the lives of all the British people. Yet the Cabinet is behaving as if it were a private company, keeping commercial information secret from its competitors. Government is not business. It exists to serve the citizenry and to protect their interests. It is financed by them through taxation. It is chosen by them through the ballot. To behave in this fashion four months after the electorate returned it with a majority of 144 seats is to show contempt for those who made it what it is—imprisonable in parliamentary terms.

The Treasury team of ministers has now come to believe that private government practised on this scale on this issue is unacceptable to the point of being counter-productive. They want to lead a public debate and provide the necessary data. But will the Prime Minister let them? Hers has been the injunction of silence.

There is no good reason why those Treasury figures, plus models of spending and taxation for the late 1980s based on a range of economic assumptions, cannot be published. The Government does not have to commit itself. The Green Paper is a tried and tested vehicle for discussion. The Prime Minister has won a high reputation for honesty and insistence that the public be confronted with unpleasant truths. She must be able to see that a people is more easily reconciled to hard choices as the necessity, or case, for them is made apparent.

If nevertheless the Prime Minister insists upon the ludicrous precautions taken against leakage of details of the Treasury's exercise, she will probably defeat her own purpose. She will be pushing too far the confidentiality a government is entitled to command; whereupon it is easier for knowledgeable officials to decide conscientiously that disclosing the raw material of the democratic process is not just pardonable but their duty.

Cost of motorways

From the Chairman of the British Road Federation.

Mr. Harrison, of the Conservation Society (August 17), produces very misleading criticism of motorway building. He completely ignores the desire by the public for increased personal mobility that has accompanied the rise in living standards since 1945. This led to a substantial growth in car ownership in the 1950s and 1960s, well before the present motorway network was in place. It is therefore wrong to blame motorways for the growth of traffic or the shift away from public transport.

Mr. Harrison's suggestion that we can solve the congestion problem by simply diverting traffic off the road is an insult to the 20 per cent of the adult population who hold driving

licences and to all those, whether drivers or not, who use buses.

In fact, motorways have been built primarily to facilitate road travel over relatively long distances between urban areas and not as a solution to traffic congestion within these areas. However, they have had the beneficial effect of taking much heavy through traffic away from towns and villages, as well as reducing accident rates. The uncompleted section of the M40 in Warwickshire and Oxfordshire would result in another 50 communities being effectively bypassed—a very positive environmental contribution.

Provided we maintain our motorway network properly, these substantial benefits will not be lost, as Mr. Harrison seems to think.

If the Conservation Society believe that the return of passenger

and freight traffic to the railways would remove the need for motorways or solve the urban congestion problem, they are sadly mistaken. Railways cannot provide the flexibility and convenience required for most passenger and freight transport.

Mr. Harrison's final delusion is that "increasing road freight traffic causes intolerable congestion, pollution and environmental degradation in urban areas". The independent Wood report on heavy lorries in London examined these issues closely and concluded that a heavy lorry ban would have no significant effect on overall congestion and pollution levels.

Yours faithfully,
TONY DE BOER, Chairman,
British Road Federation Ltd,
Cowdrey House,
6 Portland Street, WC2,
August 19.

Cash backing for film-makers

From Mr. Michael Winner.

Sir, To see 30 of the highest paid people in the British film industry seeking (August 30) taxpayer support for them and their co-workers is slightly ironic.

However, as a fellow film-maker, I join in this inconsistency, albeit with some pang of conscience, at a time of other pressing public needs. I cannot subscribe, however, to the idea that the National Film Finance Corporation, which, in my opinion, has done a poor job, should be the vehicle for distributing whatever Government money may be forthcoming.

I accept that films are an important part of our national life, then some £30m per year should, I feel, be provided by Government toward film production. This should be complemented by a levy on blank cassettes (which *de facto* encourage piracy) and on films shown on TV (the monopoly of BBC and ITV as the only buyers has kept real prices there depressed). Certainly it is not fair that British cinema, through the Eady Levy, should have to subsidise British films when the cinema themselves are in a worse state than the rest of the industry.

The money thus available should then be distributed in the same manner as the Eady Fund, namely by crediting each British film shown with further moneys pro rata to its share of box-office revenue in this country. This would avoid having to make value judgments which are notoriously suspect and boost both popular and specialist film revenues.

Further, such moneys should be withheld until the same production company makes its next British picture, thus ensuring reinvestment of this money in further British films.

I hope this practical system is adopted by the Government, as it is the only one which would genuinely help an ongoing British film industry—at the same time avoiding the loss-making running costs and overheads of the National Film Finance Corporation.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL WINNER, Director,
Scimitar Films Ltd,
6-8 Saville Street, W1,
September 2.

A Liberal voice

From Mrs. Phoebe Winch.

Sir, Your leader, "A gravel voice from Eritrick", August 27, was misleading. Apart from the minor error of stating that Tony Greaves is Chairman of the Association of Liberal Councillors instead of our organising secretary, you imply that the ALC is part of a "disorderly dotiness" and a "gymnasium for working out political fantasies" which makes the Liberal Party uninterested in, or unsuitable for, real political power.

The facts are that the Association of Liberal Councillors is one of the bodies within the party that has come to terms with the political power because many of its members have political power in local authorities around the country—whether Liberal groups are in control, hold the balance, or are the main opposition.

Their effectiveness is due in part to the professionalism and expertise of Tony Greaves and our staff who provide a support service (publications, training, a very comprehensive reference library, monthly bulletins, etc.) for campaigners and councillors.

David Steel's desire for political discipline and responsibility by a party that is poised—with the SDP—for effective parliamentary power is already being realised by many Liberal groups in council chambers.

There is therefore no difference between the aims of the Association of Liberal Councillors and the aims of David Steel.

Yours faithfully,
PHOEBE WINCH, Chairman,
Bristol Liberal Party,
8 Downy Square,
Hotwells,
Bristol,
Avon,
August 28.

From Dr. David M. Couper.

Sir, I imagine Mr. Redpath's iced bun (August 20) was more or less indistinguishable in flavour from a distant relative of the choc ice I bought today. This was labelled "chocolate flavoured cream with chocolate flavoured coating", ingredients: E322, 471, 407, 410, 412, 102, 122, 141. Ugh!

What is this mysterious substance "E"? I think we should be told.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. COUPER,
26 Bovill Street,
Forest Hill, SE23,
August 21.

Iced bunbun

From Dr. David M. Couper.

Sir, I imagine Mr. Redpath's iced bun (August 20) was more or less indistinguishable in flavour from a distant relative of the choc ice I bought today. This was labelled "chocolate flavoured cream with chocolate flavoured coating", ingredients: E322, 471, 407, 410, 412, 102, 122, 141. Ugh!

What is this mysterious substance "E"? I think we should be told.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. COUPER,
26 Bovill Street,
Forest Hill, SE23,
August 21.

Soviet challenge

From Mr. Roman Napets.

Sir, I find it difficult to reconcile the letter of Brian Thomas (August 25) with your heading above, which was "Balanced view of Soviet challenge".

Mr. Thomas's thesis is that the Soviet Union, which was "invaded in 1941", is entitled to the security provided by a system of Soviet-controlled "buffer states" and he suggests further that such a system has been made legitimate by the Western acceptance of it in the mid-forties.

Actually the Soviet expansion into "buffer states" preceded the 1941 German invasion: two years earlier the Soviet-Nazi Pact "legitimised" the Soviet invasion of Poland and the three Baltic states which, so far, have not recovered their independence.

I find Mr. Thomas's statement that this does not make the Soviet Union "automatically guilty of aggression" quite astonishing. His

Investing in new ideas

From Mr. J. R. Livesey.

Sir, Heaven help industry if the innovation warrant suggested by William Kingston (feature, August 22) ever is imposed.

Most innovations and minor improvements to standard lines stem from each firm following a well-defined path. For example, every producer of semiconductor memories is working on getting more memory on a chip. If, after a lot of donkey work, a firm repeatedly finds itself blocked by one or other of its competitors having just obtained an innovation warrant, it will soon stop all development work and wait until the warrant runs out.

The only way the warrant system would seem to work is by licensing some firms to develop know-how in highly defined fields with all other firms having to wait until the warrants run out.

There is a lot wrong with the present patent system, mainly the high cost of obtaining patents, the high cost and delay in investigating whether a proposed venture is blocked by patents, and especially the high cost of litigation. However the system of innovation warrants seems to go back beyond the Statute of Monopolies and have all the snags of the discretionary monopolies prior to that statute.

What may be wanted is not an incontestable warrant but a warrant tied in some way to protecting only a firm's own know-how without preventing others developing that know-how by themselves.

Moreover if the warrant-holder does not have to police his monopoly, who would?

The proposal of warrants would seem to be a step on the path of total state regulation of innovation with a vast bureaucracy to regulate which firms are licensed to follow which lines of development.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. LIVESEY,
111 The Albany,
Old Hall Street,
Liverpool,
August 24.

From Mr. Hugh Brett.

Sir, William Kingston's article (August 22) urging the introduction of a "warrant" system to foster new industries by rewarding financial investment through state "monopoly" grants merits the greatest consideration. The columns of your paper all too frequently testify to the sad fact that in the UK we are good at inventing but bad at industrialising and investing in new ideas.

The introduction of new legal concepts can play a vital role in the promotion of commercial objectives. The legal concept, for example, of limited liability assisted the expansion of commerce by introducing a simple device for

Transferring prisoners

From Professor G. J. Zellik.

Sir, Your useful leading article, "Far and foreign captivity" (August 26), was not wholly correct in summarizing the provisions of the Council of Europe's Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, which the United Kingdom has just signed.

You say that a homeland asking for repatriation will have to make clear in advance what it means to do about remission, parole and so on. It is true that there is provision in the Convention for the communication of all relevant information, but the Convention explicitly provides that the enforcement of the sentence, which includes release and parole, is to be governed entirely by the law of the administering (i.e. the receiving) state.

You also say that difficulties would arise if one country considered that the prisoner had discharged his debt to society, while the other regarded him as liable to further penalties. Again, the Convention has express provisions on this point. Either state may grant a pardon, amnesty or commutation of sentence, but review of the judgment remains the exclusive right of the sentencing state and the administering state must terminate the enforcement of the sentence on being informed by the sentencing state that the sentence is no longer enforceable.

There may, as you say, be friction as a result of all this in particular cases, but the Convention has anticipated most of the practical problems and acrimonious or protracted discussion between states after a transfer has been effected is unlikely.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ZELICK,
Professor of Public Law,
Faculty of Laws,
Queen Mary College,
University of London, E1,
August 30.

letter contains too many half-truths and facile comparisons of Soviet and American behaviour to comment on individually. But his unqualified acceptance of the Brezhnev doctrine for Central Europe cannot pass unchallenged.

The Brezhnev doctrine has its origins in the 1939 Soviet-Nazi Pact, and evolved further in the Yalta agreement. Both treat Central Europe purely as a space for the disposition of security systems of superpowers, disregarding the fact that 200 million people of diverse nationalities happen to live there.

These nationalities each have their own history, culture and traditions and their own vision of national, sovereign, destiny. Their aspirations are ignored by many (including Western peace movements) who focus all their attentions on the relations between the superpowers. But the Central Europeans do not accept the role of "buffers" imposed on them: stubbornly and with determination they continue to struggle to achieve their aspirations. This is perhaps incon-

Numbers dilemma for polytechnics

From Mr. C. H. Robinson.

Sir, Your editorial, "The polytechnics' open door" (August 31) highlights the dilemma facing polytechnics and colleges: to cram in students and maintain opportunities but put quality at risk or to say "Enough is enough" and pull up the drawbridge.

As you rightly point out, the Government "has sought to cut higher education spending without necessarily incurring the odium of turning away qualified students". The polytechnics and colleges of higher education have responded to the climate of economic restraint and have pared to the bone the cost of educating a student.

The universities, on the other hand, by decision of the University Grants Committee, have maintained resources per student, thereby turning away large numbers of applicants who are joining the lengthening queues outside public sector colleges. Would-be qualified students have a right to expect both places and good-quality higher education. The National Advisory Body for Local Authority Higher Education warned Sir Keith in July that without further resources that quality was in jeopardy. The proposals issued this week show that both opportunities and quality are very definitely in jeopardy.

Sir Keith must surely heed the cries of those intending students and not allow them to be cheated of higher education they have been led to expect. The polytechnics and colleges must be given adequate funds to cater for the numbers of students allocated by the NAB and to maintain the standards of their courses.

Yours faithfully,
CECIL H. ROBINSON, President,
National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education,
Hamilton House,
Mabledon Place, WC1,
August 31.

Straw burning

From Mr. C. G. Harris.

Sir, Perhaps I might be allowed to add my personal view to that of Mr. Mitchell in his letter of August 29.

The drought has so shortened the harvest period that it has concentrated the stubble burn-off into an unusually short time. There has been premature senescence of foliage, and whilst it is undeniably unsightly, I would suggest that it is temporary and would hardly occur in the majority of summers.

The trend is already to bale up more and more straw, despite the problems involved, and if only industry could accelerate the stages of development which other methods of disposal have reached then I believe burning would be a thing of the past.

Economics at school

From the General Secretary of The Economics Association.

Sir, It was very encouraging to see Brian Hurl's letter (August 22) revealing his colleagues' and his own belief that Sir Keith Joseph has every reason to be anxious about the neglect by British education of teaching the economic facts of life.

His reservations that the difficult subject at A level, which has been so successfully developed and still attracts more candidates every year, may not be the appropriate focus for exploring Sir Keith's ideas must certainly be stressed, however. To start from A level and then dilute down, as he suggests himself, is meaningless and expresses some of the reservations teachers have about teaching economics at O level or below the sixth form. It not only becomes far too exam-orientated but starts at the wrong end!

Whilst this association has been encouraged by industry to engage in a dialogue about the meaning of economic literacy and what that might imply for the school curriculum, the project team set up at Manchester University in 1980 is really the means through which it is hoped this complex problem will be resolved.

We are confident that the thorough-going development and widely located classroom testing of the materials produced and suitable for children of all abilities below the sixth form by this full-time research will have a great deal to contribute to this aspect of what surely must be general education for all children.

Yours sincerely,
F. W. HANKINS,
General Secretary,
The Economics Association,
Temple Lodge,
South Street,
Ditchling,
Sussex,
August 23.

Cash point

From Mrs. Nancy Kenny.

Sir, There is a simple reason for building societies attracting more savers aged under 18 than banks. Banks are open from 9.30 to 3.30. Children are in school from 9 to 3.30. Are they to do all their saving in their holidays?

Yours,
NANCY KENNY,
The King's Mound,
9 Mansfield Road,
Oxford.

Missing the point

From Mr. Michael Rubinstein.

Sir, At the Hayward Gallery where part of the Sculpture Show is currently exhibited, I was not surprised to see a notice reading "Way out/Tell us".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN,
Raymond Buildings,
Grays Inn, WC1,
August 30.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 5: The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) and Mr Denis Thatcher have left the Castle.

By command of The Queen, the Viscountess Boyle and in waiting was present at Heathrow Airport, London this morning upon the arrival of the Governor-General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Lady Gun-Munro and welcomed their Excellencies on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 5: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this morning opened the XXII Annual Congress of the British Equine Veterinary Association at the University of York where Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her

Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for North Yorkshire (the Marquess of Normandy).

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, attended by Mrs Richard Carey Folie, travelled in the Royal Train.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 5: The Duchess of Gloucester this morning opened the IV World Congress of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London.

The Hon Mrs Munro was in attendance.

A memorial service for Sir Frederick Keane will be held at the Royal Parish Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields on Tuesday, October 4 1983, at 11.30am.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Alan Hooper will be held at St Paul's, Covent Garden, at noon today.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. K. P. Watkins and Miss J. L. Hamilton

The engagement is announced between Garth, son of Mr and Mrs R. S. Watkins, of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Jane, daughter of Sir Michael and Lady Hamilton, of Lordington House, Chichester, Sussex.

Mr J. R. Karlskne and Miss N. C. Raison

The engagement is announced between John Burgess, elder son of Brigadier and Mrs Antony Karlskne, of Farnham House, Wiltshire, and Nicola, daughter of Mr Timothy Raison, MP, and Mrs Timothy Raison, of Hillbreak, Brill, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J. MacGregor and Miss A. E. Holt

The engagement is announced between Jamie, eldest son of Mrs Moira Notcutt and Mr Graham MacGregor, of Cape Town, and Anne, youngest daughter of Mr Eileen Holt and the late Mr Norman Holt, of Regate, Surrey. The marriage will take place in England.

Dr G. Q. Maling and Miss J. A. C. Evans

The engagement is announced between Guy, son of Dr and Mrs D. H. Maling, of Dymog, Powys, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Evans, of Beverley, North Humberside.

Brentwood School

Michaelmas Term begins today. M. K. P. Davies succeeds T. E. Hare as head of school. Half term is from October 11 to 30. Old Brentwood day will be on November 5. Term ends on December 16.

Dean Close School

Autumn Term starts today. Kevin Leach is head of school and Peter Baylis is captain of rugby. Mr C. M. Kenyon has retired from Gate House and Mr M. S. Symonds succeeds him as headmaster. Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Spence becomes bursar on the retirement of Brigadier J. H. Montagu. On October 1 the school is having an open day. Old Deanian Day for games against the school is October 31 and term ends after the carol service which is on Thursday, December 15, at 3 pm.

Dulwich College

Michaelmas Term begins today. C. A. Pearce is captain of school and A. R. Mullins is captain of football. The Fifth Alleyen Reunion (1966-75) will be on October 8. House plays will be performed in the Edward Alleyen Hall on November 5. The Christmas concert will be held in the Fairfield Hall on December 5. The service of lessons and carols will be in Chapel on December 11. Half-term will be October 22-30 inclusive, and term will end on December 16.

Birthdays today

The Right Rev John Bickersteth, 62; Sir Derman Christopher, 68; Major-General L. T. Furlivall, 76; General Sir Peter Heilings, 67; Mr Roger Knight, 37; Miss Monica Mason, 42; Mr Justice Pain, 70; Lieutenant-General Sir John Read, 66; R. D. Reid, 85; Sir James Stubbfield, 82; Mrs A. Tredgold, 80; Sir Anthony Wagner, 75; Mr J. R. C. Young, 46; Sir William McEwan Younger, 78.

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Sherrard was christened Polly Jane at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, on August 31 by the Rev Roger Russell. The godparents are Mr Roger Wilson (for whom Mr John Stansfield is proxy), Mr Andrew Lindsay Baylis (for whom Mr Richard Clough stood proxy), Mrs Stephen Morant, and Miss Josephine Sherrard.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Professor Kenneth J. Arrow to be President of the International Economy Association.

New Development in Historic Towns

An exhibition of architecture including 27 projects in London, York, Bath, Cambridge, Durham, Kings Lynn and Richmond.

6th Sept - 1st Oct 1983

GALLERY:
1 Hobbhouse Court
Suffolk Street
London SW1

enquiries 01-828 0111

Princess Anne questions training of event horses

Princess Anne yesterday answered criticism that horse eventing courses and fences were too demanding by reminding the British Equine Veterinary Association Congress that measurements of speed and distances for three-day events had actually declined.

"The size of fences has remained unchanged for 15 years," she told her audience at York University.

"Therefore it is the competitors who have insufficiently trained their horses," she asked. The Princess was delivering a paper on the preparation and training of event horses.

She said she hoped that competitors at this week's eventing at Burleigh would cooperate with Dr David Snow, of the Animal Health Trust, who will be doing blood tests on horses before and after the cross-country event.

"It might tell us something we did not know before, but owners tend to be a bit wary of things like needles. With any luck people will cooperate," she added.

"If you look at it from a racing point of view, humans are breaking records all the time but horse records have barely changed in 50 years. Does that mean the trainers of old were better than they are now?"

"Have the horses changed or have standards slipped?"

"Has the veterinary profession lost its lead in sports medicine? I think for a while they were in front of human medicine. There are all sorts of areas ready for investigation."



The Princess at York University yesterday

University news

Reading
Mr Emmanuel Carmelo Cassingena, Venezuela, who graduated with a BA in sociology, was the best student in the final examination and has been awarded the Viola Klein prize for 1983.

Grant
The Strachey Trust has made another grant, this time of £20,000 to the location register of twentieth century English literary manuscripts and letters, based at Reading University.

After 10 months' work the register is set to complete its five-year task of tracing manuscripts and letters. The trust's latest grant

Marriage

Mr A. Marlow and Miss E. M. Krawk

The marriage took place quietly in New York on September 3 between Mr Alfonso Marino and Miss Eve Krawk. The bride was attended by Miss Janine Marino and Mr Russell Marino was best man.

Reception

Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Sir Sigmond Sternberg, a governor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was host at a reception held yesterday at Lauderdale House, Highgate, in honour of Professor Yehuda Bauer Machover, Professor of Holocaust Studies at the Institute of Contemporary Jewish, Jerusalem. Among those present were members of the British executive and Friends of the Hebrew University.

Latest wills
Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):
Mr George Sykes, of Liversedge, West Yorkshire £213,925
Briggs, Mr Solomon, of Crowlands, Lincolnshire £336,882
Brooke, Lieutenant Colonel John Acton, of Saxmudham, Suffolk, further grant of probate £799,362
Heap, Mrs Edith Mary, of Turleigh, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire £295,360
Hill, Mr William Keith, of Falmouth, Cornwall (builder) £200,357
Knowles, Mr Mervyn Charles Clifford, of Grendon, Northamptonshire £325,581
Wentworth, Revs, Major-General John Talbot, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, Deputy Adjutant-General, Middle East Forces 1944-46 £554,300

Mutilated skeletons puzzle archaeologists
Archaeologists have been confronted by some unusual burial rites at a site at Wasperton, Warwickshire, which includes both a Roman and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery as well as a farming settlement.

About half of the 130 graves excavated have contained possessions including jewelry, knives and footgear. But the experts are puzzled by the mutilation of some of the later skeletons. Some had been decapitated after death and the head placed by the feet, while others have had the legs removed and placed around the head.



Television debut: Sandra Young, aged 22, who makes her first appearance as a presenter on the Thames Television children's programme "CBTV" today. The former art and drama student at Crewe and Alsager College of Higher Education, Cheshire, joins the regular team of Jim Sweeney, Steve Steen and Paul Henley (Photograph: John Voos)

Science report

The crow exposed as an Australian bird

By Clive Coleson

All crows originated from an Australian stronghold that colonized Asia 35 million years ago. That is just one conclusion of an ambitious re-classification of the world's birds, using the methods of molecular biology.

Charles Sibley and Jon Ahlquist, of Yale University in the United States, have spent the past nine years comparing genetic material, DNA, from about a thousand bird species (more than 10 per cent of the world's total). The work has revealed many evolutionary relationships that were confused or concealed by traditional taxonomy based on physical structure and behaviour.

Their results have appeared in relatively obscure ornithological journals like *Emu*, *Auk* and *Condor*. But *Nature* brings them to a wider scientific audience this week in a review article by Professor Jared Diamond, a

physiologist at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The intention of the project is to measure the true "genetic distance" between species and thence to draw an evolutionary tree showing when they diverged from common ancestors. The anatomical and behavioural characters used by traditional taxonomists are often misleading because unrelated species living in similar environments may develop similar features.

Marsupials are the classic example of this process among mammals. Zoologists who found animals in Australia resembling mice, moles, cats and wolves, realized that they were related to one another because they shared an obvious identifying feature, the marsupial pouch.

Sibley and Ahlquist have shown that most Australian songbirds have a common ancestry like the marsupials. That was not previously recog-

nized because they share no distinctive features so taxonomists often placed Australian birds in the corresponding European families. In fact Australian nuthatches, warblers, flycatchers, thrushes and wrens are related to each other rather than to their European look-alikes.

The DNA studies also indicate that a few groups of birds now found elsewhere in the world, such as the crows, originated in Australia.

The Yale biologists use a tool called "DNA-DNA hybridization". They heat DNA, extracted from birds' red blood cells, to separate its two intertwined strands. Single strands from two different species are then combined to give a hybrid double strand.

Differences between the nucleotide sequences of the different strands weaken the bond between them. Therefore the

hybrid dissociates when heated. The lower temperature that DNA from either species, Sibley and Ahlquist use that temperature difference to measure the genetic distance between the two species. That can be translated approximately into the date when the two species diverged from a common ancestor.

The Yale work "represents the most ambitious and fundamental effort to date to revolutionize taxonomy by using methods of molecular biology," Professor Diamond says. When the calibration between temperatures of dissociation and absolute dates becomes more confident, Sibley and Ahlquist may provide the first evolutionary tree with dated branching points for all existing families of an entire class of vertebrates, the birds.

Source: *Nature* (vol 306 pages 17-18) September 1, 1983.

OBITUARY

MR JOHN GILPIN Ballet dancer and teacher



Mr John Gilpin, the former dancer, died suddenly yesterday. He was 53.

From an early age he was one of the brightest stars of British ballet and maintained his supremacy as a dancer of rare style and beauty for more than 20 years until ill-health enforced his early retirement from the stage. After that his exceptional gifts as a teacher and as producer of certain works remained in demand.

John Gilpin was born in Southsea on February 10, 1930. His father served in the Royal Navy, so the mother was chiefly responsible for bringing up the family. When some form of physical activity was medically recommended for John, who had never been as robust as his twin brother Tony, she took a hint from the child's obvious love of music and dancing, and arranged for him to have ballet lessons.

He was lucky enough to find good teachers, and at the age of eight his potential was spotted by Olive Ripman, acting as judge at a competition, who offered him a scholarship to the Cone-Ripman School (now Arts Educational Schools). At only 13, he won the Gold Medal of the Royal Academy of Dancing.

By then he had already begun appearing as a child actor, in the film *We'll Meet Again* with Vera Lynn (1942) and that same year as Michael in *Peter Pan*. He danced both the Hussar and the King of the Dandies in Massine's *Beau Danube*, and created roles in Ashton's *Le Rêve de Lénor* (Le Roi Nougat) and Petit's *Carmen* (a gypsy).

Gilpin then moved to the Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas, where he added *Swan Lake Act II* and the *Black Swan pas de deux* to his repertoire, and had to replace the injured André Eglevsky at three days' notice in the leading role at the premiere of John Taras's *Persephone*. When he had been six months with Cuevas, Anton Dolin invited Gilpin to become one of the principals of Festival Ballet, on its formation in 1950.

With Festival Ballet, Gilpin was first Dolin's alternate, then his successor, in most of the big classics, and partnered many celebrated ballerinas. Although many parts were made specially for him during his years there, few

Bluebird pas de deux for her young prodigy. Roles created for him at that time included Jack Kitch in Walter Gore's *Mr Punch* (1946), the rabbit-catcher in André Howard's *The Sailor's Return* and solos in Gore's *Plaisance* (1947). However, a tour of Australia lasting well over a year left the company over-stretched and exhausted, and when they returned to Britain in 1949 Gilpin was among several dancers who left Rambert.

After abortive negotiations to join the Sadler's Wells Ballet at Covent Garden, Gilpin was invited as a soloist to Roland Petit's Ballets de Paris, where he danced both the Hussar and the King of the Dandies in Massine's *Beau Danube*, and created roles in Ashton's *Le Rêve de Lénor* (Le Roi Nougat) and Petit's *Carmen* (a gypsy).

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PIERO SRAFFA

marked effect on their future thinking. An English version of an article which had appeared in *Italian*, was published in the *Economic Journal*, December 1926. This produced a delayed action effect in the outburst of discussion of "imperfect competition" in the 1930s.

Sraffa hated lecturing and after two years refused to continue giving his course. He never again gave a lecture or talk, at least in English. He threatened to leave Cambridge, saying it is a good thing to leave a country before you have begun to be bored, but he was persuaded to stay on, in a newly created post, to take charge of research students for the Faculty of Economics and as Librarian of the Marshall Library, and he became a Fellow of Trinity College in 1939. Whether bored or not he remained, to become, due course, Emeritus Reader in Economics.

In 1930 he began the great task of his edition of the *Works and Correspondence of David Ricardo* for the Royal Economic Society. His fastidious perfectionism made the work extremely slow, but the work was eventually completed with the help of Maurice Dobb in 12 volumes. It was not only a work of scholarship. In the introduction to Ricardo's *Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*, keeping within the strict limits of editorial comment on changes between editions, Sraffa built up a completely fresh and completely convincing interpretation of Ricardo's system, which had a great influence upon all subsequent work, not only on the classics but also in the latest developments of economic theory.

During the 1930s he did sometimes go back to Italy but usually only for holidays, particularly during the summer, which he used to spend in the Alps, sometimes in Switzerland and sometimes in Italy. (He was

MR LAURENCE SCOTT

Mr Laurence Scott, chairman and managing director of the Manchester Guardian and Evening News, died on Friday, 1973, at his home in London. He had suffered a cerebral haemorrhage the previous day.

A grandson of the distinguished editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, C. P. Scott, he has played an important place in the history of that celebrated newspaper for it was he who planned and carried through the change of 1961 whereby *The Guardian* became a national newspaper in technical fact as well as in reputation in London. It was a calculated but none the less considerable commercial risk but one which in retirement and indeed before it, he could look back to with satisfaction for the transformation proved abundantly successful.

Risks were not in his book something to be shirked from. He had gained some experience of newspaper work on the *Financial News*, the *News Chronicle* and the London evening newspaper, the *Star* and by the time he came, as it were, home, he brought with him a certain readiness for the new side of the newspaper business something which was perhaps a little lacking previously on *The Guardian*. He enjoyed circulation graphs and saw nothing wrong in a little trumpet blowing. He was not short of either self-assurance or courage.

The son of John Russell Scott, who was a former manager of *The*

were of much merit, but it put the stamp of his own personality and style on his solo in Ullin's *Variations for Four* and two ballets by Michael Chagley, *Symphony for Fun and Games* in *Wonderland*, as the White Rabbit. His best roles with Festival were in revivals. Notable among them were Harold Linder's *Endes*, in which his virtuosity has never been equalled: the first British production of dance from Bournonville's *Napoli*; the poet in Balanchine's *Night Shadow*; and the melodramatic lead in Jack Carter's *The Witch Boy*, which he brought a unique evil glamour.

In 1961 and again in 1963, Gilpin danced as guest star with the Royal Ballet, making his debut in *Les Patineurs* and making a memorable impression in *The Sleeping Beauty*. In 1965 he guested with American Ballet Theatre for their 25th anniversary season. However, his main loyalty was to Festival Ballet, becoming artistic director on Dolin's resignation in 1962 but himself relinquishing that after a few years.

Through Festival Ballet's tours, Gilpin became known all over the world. The qualities he thought most important in a dancer were line, musicality and simplicity. He exemplified all those to perfection, together with exceptional physical beauty, a natural courtliness which made him an outstanding partner, and the ability to convey to an audience his own delight in dancing and belief in the dramatic possibilities of the classical dance.

His career was interrupted by illness more than once, and the problems that it caused drove him to become an alcoholic. In his biography *A Dance with Life* he tells movingly the story of his successful struggle against that.

Gilpin's first marriage, in 1960, to a fellow-dancer, Sally Judd, was short-lived, but he was greatly attached to, and proud of, his daughter Tracy. In July of this year he married Princess Antoinette of Monaco, and was looking forward to a new life in Monte Carlo with great happiness, but suffered a heart attack at the end of last week and was admitted to the Princess Grace Hospital, where he died.

introduced to English rock climbing by Professor Pigou. His contacts with Italian circles had been completely severed. On the other hand, he cultivated a number of friendships with well-known Italian exiles.

He always kept his Italian nationality and, in the invasion scare of 1940, he was interned and sent to the Isle of Man, where he remained until Keynes succeeded in bringing him back to Cambridge. After the war he picked up the threads and in later years without any formal position he exercised considerable influence in Italian academic life.

All the while, especially when the war news was depressing, he was privy working away at the statement of the basic idea which finally appeared under the title *Production of Commodities by Means of Commodities, A critique of economic theory*. The book was no less eccentric than the title. In the preface, dated March 1959, Sraffa indicated that the central propositions had taken shape in the late 1920s. In the interval a number of his points had been discovered and published by other writers but none of them with his purpose - to establish a basis for a critique of the marginal theory of value and distribution - the theory which had long been the dominant orthodoxy in this field. The controversy around the *Critique* was concerned with the most refined abstractions, which might appear to the layman devoid of interest, but within its own sphere was of the highest importance and had far-reaching implications.

Sraffa wrote English prose of remarkable purity and elegance, but the subject matter of his published work did not give much scope for the wit and the penetrating observations on public and private affairs which were the constant delight of his friends.

He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1954.

principally as a defence against death duties. The legal advice given to Scott threw doubts into his mind as to the efficacy of the existing trust and a new one was set up.

He had long been convinced of the need for two significant changes at *The Guardian*: one was to print news on the front page. This was achieved in 1952; the other was to print in London as well as in Manchester. This, as has been already stated, took longer to bring about. It was he who appointed Alastair Hetherington to succeed A. P. Wadsworth as editor of *The Guardian*, an appointment he had no cause to regret, supporting Hetherington in many difficult and unpopular decisions - notably the attitude taken by the newspaper during the Suez crisis.

During the 1960s Scott was very closely involved in plans and discussions for a possible merger of *The Times* and *The Guardian*, not perhaps natural partners, but these talks came to nothing and the matter was resolved by the purchase of *The Times* by Lord Thomson.

This did nothing to strengthen the financial state of *The Guardian* and severe economies had to be effected. One of Scott's final major concerns was the setting up of two separate operating companies for the *Guardian* and the *Manchester Evening News* and the very last was something he had long planned for the removal of the company's offices and works from Cross Street to Deansgate.

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Galleries

Discoveries in uncharted territory

George Speaight

Sunsavers from 10p **AIR PORTUGAL**
The born travellers

Fortune makers in Britain today: 1 - the immigrant by Jonathan Clare

It seems ironic that the man who, more than any other, has shown Britain how to make its traditional metal-bashing and engineering industries work, was not born here.

During the years when Britain has been stunting its engineering shops in the Midlands and elsewhere, Mr Swraj Paul has been quietly buying them up and making money where others have failed.

His businesses have been made to work by concentrating on the areas that he believes he understands and by keeping costs down. "I have come to believe that if you control overheads - and that starts at the top - you can still make the old business work," he says.

The third factor in his success is the message that goes out to all his plants, most of which are in the areas hardest hit by this recession. That message is that the recession is not, repeat not, going to end.

Mr Paul's name is not well known in this country, outside the small band of City cognoscenti who follow his successful forays into the realm of metal bashing.

In his native India, however, he is a front-page news item. His buccannery style there has involved him in a bitter dispute with Indian industrialists since he took stakes in two of the country's biggest companies a few months ago.

In Britain his private Caparo Group owns 75 per cent of Caparo Industries, which takes in everything from processing ferrous scrap to selling fork lift trucks. Caparo Industries' rapid growth through its selective acquisitions in an area of industry that other people would not touch has given Mr Paul the muscle to invest in India.

Now a British citizen, his present British target is to get the stock market valuation of the quoted Caparo Industries up from about £12m to £100m within five years.

Caparo Group, in which he owns no shares but which he effectively controls through an offshore family trust, has a net asset value of between £10m and £12m.

Mr Paul comes from a village called Jullundur. In his early life, he lived above his father's modest business making metal products like buckets and brass fittings - hence his interest in the British engineering industry.

That business is now run by his three brothers and has grown into a company called Apeyaji with interests ranging from pharmaceuticals to property. But even in the early days the old business prospered enough to send young Swraj to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He left MIT with a postgraduate degree in mechanical engineering and returned to the family



Mr Paul: aiming to increase his company's stock market valuation by £88m

The man from India engineers his own British empire

business which was by then operating from Calcutta.

Sad chance brought him to Britain in 1966 to seek treatment for his daughter, Ambika, who was suffering from leukaemia and who died here in 1968. After that experience he did nothing for 18 months.

The desire to get back into the swing of work saw him trading steel with the United States and Europe on the back of a £3,000 loan. Before long he had bought into a small tube-making firm in Huntingdon which made a profit of about £3,000 a year.

But in 1970 he was able to buy the other two-thirds of the shares in Natural Gas Tubes for £10,000. It became the first rung on the ladder to today's Caparo.

He went into the tube business because "it was the only one I knew". Little investment was needed because most of the plant was leased. Natural Gas Tubes now makes £50,000 a year and remains in the private company for old time's sake.

The next move was persuading the Department of Industry to

give him a loan of £1.5m with a further grant of £1m from the European Coal and Steel Community to build a plant in Ebbw Vale.

The Ebbw Vale plant is in the heart of Mr Michael Foot's constituency, which gave Mr Paul's critics an opportunity to snipe, saying that he has an eye for the political main chance.

Certainly he is unwavering in his support of Mrs Gandhi, the Indian prime minister. It is rumoured that he could have become the Indian ambassador had he wished, though he prefers not to be drawn. "If your conduct is right you don't need a formal appointment," he says.

He admires Mrs Thatcher's determination and indeed has spoken at a dinner flanked by the world's two women prime ministers. "But I like Michael Foot too," he says.

His connections with Mrs Gandhi have put him in the firing line. Mr Paul says his unflinching loyalty is unusual in a country where most industrialists tend to bend with the prevailing wind.

While influence has undoubtedly helped him, it has also caused him trouble.

His recent foray into investment in India is, he admits, one of his few mistakes. At least in financial terms. But he has turned it into what he calls a moral crusade.

On one of his many trips to India he learnt that India was liberalizing its rules to encourage investment by outsiders, so he agreed to put some money in for "patriotic reasons". There was an outcry when he took two stakes in Delhi Cloth Mills and Escorts, respectively India's fifth and fourteenth largest public companies.

His activities in the United Kingdom had not gone unnoticed in India and the families which ran these companies, though they now only hold small amounts of shares, opposed him.

The Indian Government has said that the companies must register the transfer of shares to his name, which they had refused to do. But so far they have made

no move to comply and impasse has been reached.

The Indian press is both uninhibited and partisan in its coverage of foreign businessmen.

The Indian industrial establishment has made colourful allegations about his activities and motives. For his part, Mr Paul who has entered into this fight in the same spirit as his opponents, says that Indian industrialists are corrupt, that Indian companies are run by nepotism to the detriment of the country itself.

Cynics say that he is guilty of practices for which he condemns Indian businessmen. His Caparo Group employs members of his family and it controls Caparo Industries.

The difference, he says, is that Caparo Group is a private company, that is all right. He also says that, as the majority shareholder in Caparo Industries, his private company enjoys no privileges denied to the minority shareholders with the remaining 25 per cent.

In the five years from 1978 Caparo has acquired nine companies and taken stakes in many more which could one day turn into bids. They include tea companies and the Osborne Hotel, Torquay.

The milestones were the acquisitions of Central Manufacturing and Trading in 1980, E. Austin (now Caparo Properties which is being merged) and Barton, bought only this year after an agreed bid.

And do not doubt Mr Paul's determination to get what he wants: he defeated the mighty Hanson Trust in the battle for CMT.

Despite the success of Caparo, Mr Paul lives modestly in the same London flat he occupied when he first came here. Although he was educated at a Christian college in India, he is a Hindu, and eats vegetarian and tinned food.

He now runs a Mercedes in place of an Austin, but rarely drives unless he is going to the Midlands. Instead he walks to Caparo's West End offices in London after rising early.

He has not experienced racial prejudice in this country. "The only place is in India, where they say I'm a foreigner." Nor is there any resistance to his style by the business community here. "The word is getting round now we've shown we mean business. We're shop floor people, not boardroom people. And we always go to talk to people, they don't have to come to us."

"In my view you shouldn't feel there is no more to achieve. Making myself rich does not worry me and my style of living has not changed in 15 years. All I want is for the companies to succeed."

Tomorrow: The technician

Industrial notebook

What's wrong with the way we teach our managers?

It may seem that "what is management?" is a strange question for a management teacher to ask. In the light of one recent event, however, it seems like an obvious question. In the official report of its conference on The Future of Management Education, the Association of Teachers of Management said: "Part of the problem is related to whether there is a definable body of knowledge called management which can be taught. The balance of comments was clearly that there is not."

Apart from the sharp intake of breath at such a statement emerging after about 35 years of university/polytechnic-based management education, from a body called the Association of Teachers of Management, one ought to give some consideration to the value and significance of the statement itself. It is certainly true that, as far back as 1962, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development report, *Development of a Body of Management Knowledge*, had pointed out that the two main obstacles to competent management education were "assumptions about the existence of an accepted body of knowledge and a method of teaching it, which are not wholly justified nor generally accepted," and "lack of a common concept." And this thought was hardly novel.

Walter Bagshot had come to the same conclusion on educating men of affairs back in 1867. One may feel that the statement made by the Association of Teachers of Management is merely a belated recognition of cruel reality. The OECD report notes more acutely that the main problem has been "a deficiency of sufficient scientific effort."

In our business schools and management centres we have courses that teach all kinds of things, but they do not teach management they never have. The early courses, in the 1950s, taught economics, law, psychology, and several other established academic subjects. A survey conducted by Professor R. E. Thomas in 1977, of the body of knowledge being taught in 21 university business schools or departments

and 24 management centres, showed that "little had changed. It is not surprising that we have had credibility problems in management education for years."

Since the OECD report there has been a constant stream of criticism together with indicators of appropriate action that might be taken. An official report of the 1980 conference of the European Foundation for Management Development, noted that "so far, schools have taught what has been easy rather than what has been necessary for practising managers."

A British Institute of Management Report in 1981 said that "few managers now expect the business schools to solve the problem of Britain's poor industrial performance... there is concern about the extent to which what is being taught is relevant or is merely the result of faculty interests."

Last year, the director of the Manchester Business School said, after the school's 13 years in business: "All we really need is a means of identifying both what managers currently need to learn and the educational resources best able to help them."

These repeated criticisms and queries exist because we do not know what management is. No research has ever been carried out to establish the nature of management; indeed, very little of what is said about management has any evidence in support of it. The Association of Teachers of Management, for example, assumes that managers usually learn most on the job. One wonders what the evidence for such a view is, or what it is, exactly, that managers learn in that manner. Further, how much variation is there in the standards of competence achieved and, in the light of the present state of the British economy, can we feel satisfied with such a method?

Two doctrines of management have emerged over the years: one based on classical definitions of management as involving planning and forecasting, organizing and controlling, and the other associated with a range of research studies of what managers actually do at work. The two doctrines conflict with one

another, and management education is based on neither of them. The research data on what managers do at work shows them acting in ways which are not only completely at odds with the classical definitions of management, but in ways whose purpose and outcome are not at all clear.

In *The Effective Executive*, Peter Drucker states that "there are constant pressures toward unproductive and wasteful time use." But whereas Drucker's view is that most of this activity which "does not contribute at all" is forced on the manager, the researchers, Stewart, Horne and Lupton, and Mintzberg, see it as a matter of choice.

What is really controversial about the research on what managers do at work is the question of whether the subjects of the research could be expected to be doing management. Are we to assume, for example, that any normal individual with above average intelligence and initiative, but without any relevant training or previous experience, will, somehow, know about management and do it?

Professor Tom Kempner, principal of Henley Management College, recently deplored the fact that 80 per cent of British managers have had no formal training. If one carried out a survey of a sample of that 80 per cent should one expect to find a high standard of managerial performance and effectiveness, or might one be expected to discover a degree of inadequacy and confusion such as is indicated in some of the research?

If the former, how on earth do we justify the millions of pounds spent on management education, whatever that might be, in the light of the statement by the Association of Teachers of Management, and, if the latter, is there not something rather important and urgent that should be happening such as, for example, following up the implications of the 1962 OECD report?

John Snait

The author has been teaching management for 13 years.

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Electronic fraud risk worries the banks

By Rex Malik

Those open to computer fraud, particularly bankers, usually try to keep quiet about it. So the range of estimates of computer-related fraud in the United Kingdom is wide, from £30m to £2,500m a year.

Most of these estimates come from self-appointed experts seeking to sell security by first making the flesh creep. Reality, however, is that no one really knows what the figures are, and the banks and bankers, believing that they deal in confidence, prefer not to admit that any such crime exists.

They may be wise to keep quiet. For as Kevin Kearney, head of technical services at the Bank of International Settlements in Basle indicates, much of the opportunity for fraud is of the banks' own making.

Kearney, speaking at the annual Sperry Corporation press conference, was not only talking about fraud by bank employees or account holders directly or of fraud committed within the confines of one country. He was issuing a warning about crime possibilities over the high value international electronic payment networks which now link banks and the big financial institutions, where those attempting to mount a fraud could be anywhere in the world.

The sins of the bankers are those of omission rather than commission, and arise from the rapid development of these networks in the 1970s.

What is not generally realized is that these networks have huge daily turnovers: Kearney put the figure at more than \$300,000m a day.

In the early 1970s, the main international payments network linking Europe and the US was running at a few hundred transactions a day. It is now handling more than 70,000 with an average value for each transaction of \$2.5m.

And most of those transactions are finalized only in the last few minutes of the New York financial markets that dominate.

This, of course, raises many questions. At one level Kearney is concerned at the impact of this technology on the application of monetary policy by central banks. For much of the volatility of the international money markets comes from the existence of these networks, as does much of the profit in bank international dealings. The banks, it seems, have traded security for competitiveness, even if they will not admit it.

This can have unforeseen consequences. As Kearney puts it: "The fragility of the new payment

Continued on Page 18, col 4



The Times Classroom Computer competition

Next Tuesday Computer Horizons launches the first of 12 weekly Classroom Computer competitions for young people up to the age of 18. Every week there will be questions based on various aspects of computers, with a tie-breaker that will require imagination and originality.

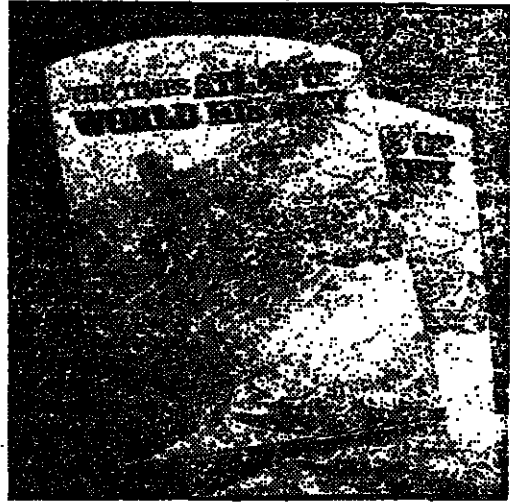
The competition will not need the use of a computer, but each week there will be a major prize of an Atari 600XL computer in two age groups for the school or college nominated by the entrants and 10 weekly individual prizes of The Times Atlas of World History.



24 Atari computers to be won - plus special prizes of The Times Atlas of World History

● The Atari 600XL computer - Atari's latest model - has a 16k RAM memory, expandable to 64k with a memory module, 24k ROM and software compatibility with other Atari home computers. Three integrated circuits control graphic display, sound generator and controller points, screen and input/output.

● The Times Atlas of World History has 360 pages containing 600 new maps and 300,000 words of narrative presenting history in the context of the places where it happened.



Clive Cookson on the effects of computers in schools

Where pupils outshine their teachers

The Government boasts that its programme to put microcomputers into Britain's schools is the best in the world. Every secondary school in the country now has at least one micro, as a result of the original Micros in Schools scheme which finished last year, and it looks as though virtually all 27,000 primary schools will have followed suit by the time the scheme ends next year.

Impressive results indeed. But they are mere dewdrops compared to the great thirst for computer time which is growing among Britain's schoolchildren. A single micro in a comprehensive school with 1,500 pupils gives each one an average of just three quarters of an hour at the keyboard every year.

Some schools do far better than that, of course. The most fortunate - private schools in particular - have invested in full-scale computer classrooms with a dozen or more micros connected in an educational network. The equipment for such a classroom costs over £10,000, and that needs a bold financial commitment by the school authorities or an energetic fund-raising campaign by parents.

But money is not the most important factor determining a school's commitment to classroom computers. What really matters is that there should be at least one teacher who is enthusiastic about education computing and who has the technical skill and energy to organize the hardware and software.

Unfortunately, such people are as scarce in schools as they are in other walks of life. Most teachers are as nervous and ignorant about computers as the general adult population, and they have not been helped by the poor provision for in-service microcomputer training.

Training 'the envy of the world'

Nor is the self-confidence of some teachers helped by the fact that they are so obviously slower than their most enthusiastic pupils at mastering the machine. Computing is perhaps the educational field in which children can most readily outperform adults.

The effort by the Department of Trade and Industry to install educational hardware through the various Micros in Schools schemes is matched by the Department of Education and Science's campaign to make good software available through the Microelectronics Education Programme (MEP).

John Coll, who was appointed last month to head a new educational software unit within the MEP, said then: "The Microelectronics Education Programme has produced software and training materials for use by teachers and their pupils that are the envy of the world". However many independent experts maintain that there is an acute shortage of good educational computer programs worldwide, Britain included.

A recent report published by the Social Science Research Council called the production of schools software "a cottage industry" that had little idea of how children learn. And it is certainly true that many of the programs use in schools today are written by enthusiastic teachers in their spare time because the material available commercially is so inadequate.

A new 'window' on software

Digital Research, one of the two American software giants that have dominated the development of operating systems for business microcomputers, last week announced its entry into the consumer market.

The Californian company has set up a consumer products division to sell software for cheap home and educational computers. This will include not only development tools and operating systems for micro manufacturers but also programs that users can buy at home computer shops for practical applications.

DR's consumer products do not depend on its own CP/M family of operating systems. They will run on the proprietary systems of manufacturers like Apple and Tandy and even on the MS-DOS created by Microsoft, its arch-

rival. (Meanwhile Microsoft is making its own attack on the consumer market. Both companies play up their competition for all it is worth in terms of publicity.)

The consumer strategy is based on three new products: the Visual Information Processor (VIP), a software development tool; Personal CP/M, an operating system; and Dr. Logo, a programming language.

VIP lets the programmer write software with "windows" and other adjustable display areas on the screen. For example, the picture shows a set of VIP filing

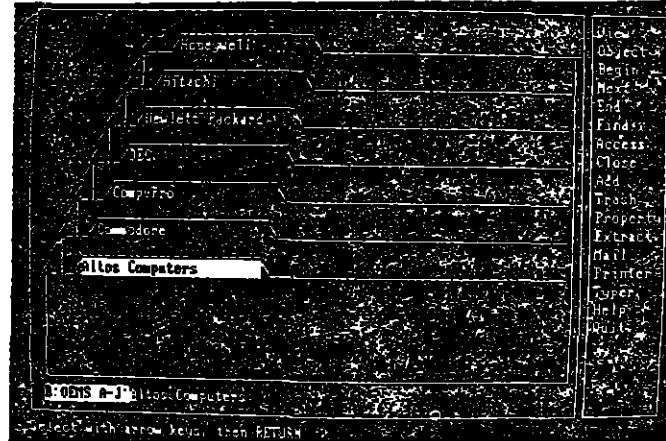
cabinet "drawers" which the user pulls out to get at the "files" within. Finally he opens a file to find the document on which he wants to work.

VIP follows the industry's trend towards integrated software. Several application programs which use the same data can share the same visual interface. For instance, the user can work on data in a filing system and then draw it into a letter being composed on a separate word processing program. Digital Research claims that this feature has so far been available only on more expensive computer systems.

Personal CP/M is a version of the standard Digital Research operating system, designed for home computers. It can be contained on a ROM (read only memory) chip and is therefore suitable for cheap micros that do not have a disc drive.

Dr. Logo is an enhanced version of Logo, the popular educational programming language, with "turtle" graphics. The turtle, a coloured pointer, leaves a coloured trail on the screen as the user moves it around.

Digital Research has enjoyed a significant revival of confidence since early summer, when some articles in the computer and business press gave the impression that Microsoft had left DR trailing in the battle to become the world's number one



How the filing cabinet is represented on the screen

microcomputer software company. Operating systems as a whole are only a small market compared to consumer applications software. DR and Microsoft will have to win significant shares of that

market if they are to emerge as real corporate giants. Remember that for all the publicity they have managed to attract, each still has worldwide revenues below £50m a year.

Learning behind the lace curtains

By Frank Brown

This week sees the launch of a project which could raise the general level of computer literacy. It is the first English-language part-work on home computing.

Already on the news stands in the Anglia TV region and advertised on the regional TV channel, is the first issue of "The Home Computer Course", a weekly part-work which, over the next 23 weeks, will give its readers a basic grounding in home computers at a cost of 80p an issue.

The new part-work is produced jointly by Orbis, the international part-work publishing house, and Bunch Books, a fast-growing publisher of hobby and leisure magazines. It will be available nationally by the end of next week, with an initial print run of more than half a million copies.

The project has two main aims, according to Peter Brooksmith, new projects manager at Orbis. "One is to demystify computers and dispel the fears many people have about them. The other is to help buyers of home computers get value for money out of them in terms of usage as soon as possible."

Galling truth

"Basically, it is a programming course interspersed with features that explain the various elements of a computer system, and how they are used. Each issue will examine a particular computer in detail and explain the functions of its various components."

"Many people buy home computers thinking they can use them more or less straightaway, only to find they can't understand the instruction manual. They turn to the various home computer magazines and find they can't understand them, either. The thing is all the more galling when they see schoolkids using them so confidently and so proficiently."

Collaboration between Bunch and Orbis arose through coincidence. Both were working on schemes to produce a home computer part-work and were introduced to each other by a media consultant only in April.

Since then the two firms have worked seven days a week to be the first in the field. At least two other firms are thought to be working on similar projects.

In common with other part works, the Home Computer Course has been designed so that it can be readily adapted for sale in other countries and other languages.

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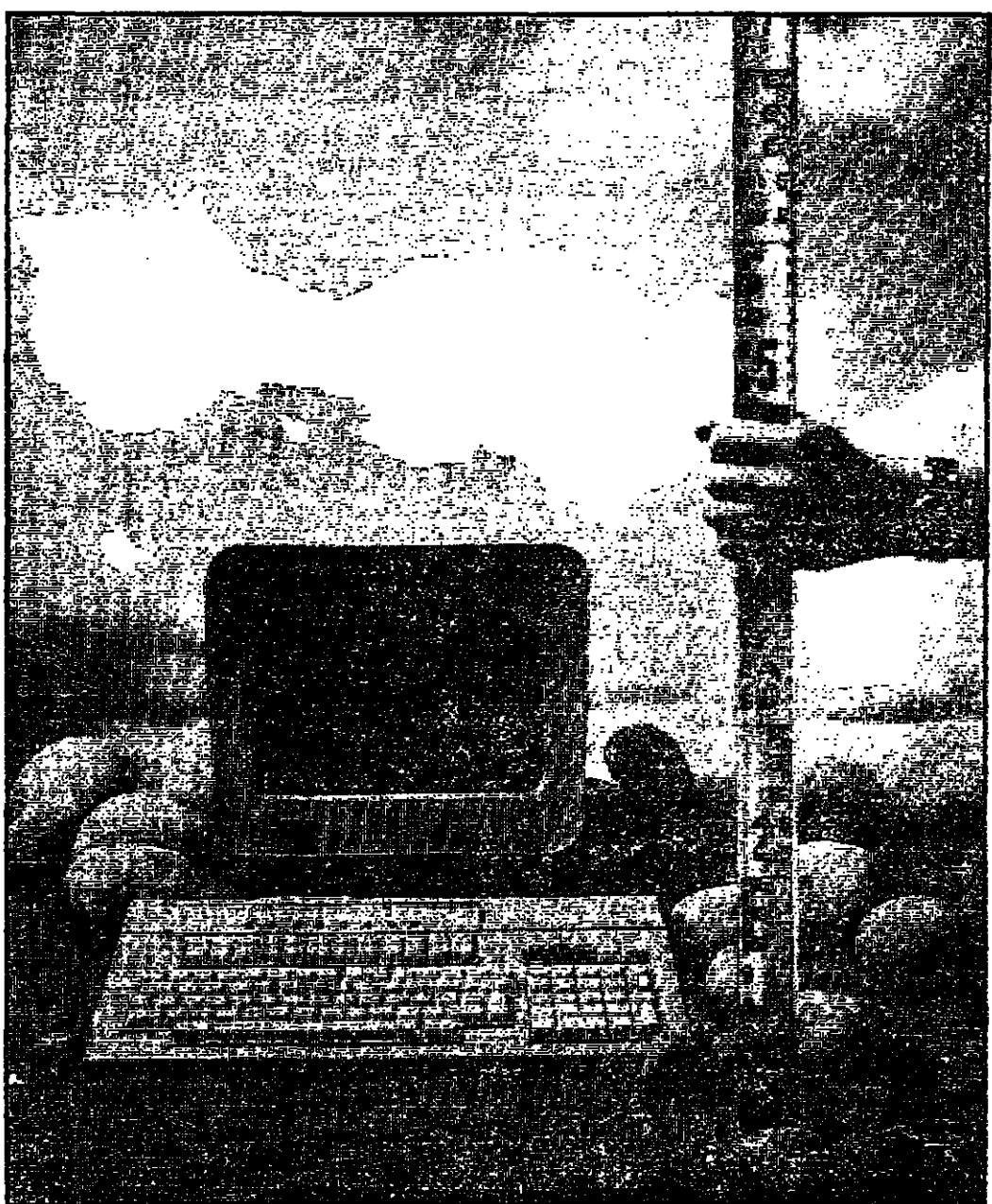
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- (vi) catering industry.

This is a fixed appointment until December 1987. Salary will be in the range £11,329 to £13,768 p.a. including £1,250 London weighting. There will be at least 5 weeks leave a year. There is a non-contributory pension scheme with interchange arrangements with other Public Service pension schemes.

For further details and application form write or phone: REF 29/58, ESTABLISHMENTS OFFICE, HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON SW1A 0AA (Telephone 01 219 5544 Answering Service) Closing date for completed applications 30 September 1983

A fourth-generation language

Talking English to the computer

By Philip Manchester

With the success of such products as Visicalc - a sort of pocket financial planner - the microcomputer has graduated in the last two years from being a toy to a useful tool.

The key has been the microcomputer's ability to provide a "personal" computing service which is accessible to the non-technical user. The essence of personal computing is in how useful a computer is rather than in the trappings of technology.

Personal computing is not new. It had its origins in the early 1970s when, for the first time, interactive terminals enabled people to use computers directly rather than through a specialist data processing department. Since then tremendous effort has been invested by the major computer manufacturers in developing a distributed processing system to extend this facility. In the end, however, it is the software that matters.

IBM has approached this problem two ways. The best known is through the medium of a programming language called APL. Devised in the 1960s by Ken Iverson, APL has attracted a growing following. It has re-

mained, however, very much the province of the professional who wishes to use the computer rather than having to spend most of the time programming it.

IBM's other route to providing accessible computing to non-programmers was developed in the UK, and is called Application Systems (AS).

Until this year, AS was locked up inside IBM and was offered only to customers through its timesharing bureau service based in Warwick. Tony Temple, the IBM man in charge of developing AS, sees the recent announcement by IBM that it will now sell the product as a software package as the beginning of a new era in computing.

"AS is built to hide the operating system and the hardware architecture from the user. It has been very hard to do this but we feel that it has largely been achieved," he said. Whilst acknowledging that microcomputers have helped to bring the issue of accessibility into the open, he sees them as limited compared with AS.

"It is different to microcomputers used for personal computing which tend to be very much orientated to a specific application. AS is a data processing system with integrated business applications. Micros are personal rather than shared which makes it difficult for many different applications to use shared data. Centralized machines have many advantages such as mass storage and disciplined standards and practices."

Here Temple touches on an argument that is crucial to the future development of computing - whether it will progress towards "cutting up" large machines for use by lots of people through terminals, or towards sticking lots of small computers together in a network.

Either way, AS would seem to offer something to the frustrated computer user. One method of gaining access in future will be through the IBM personal computer acting as a terminal. Temple's group set about developing an interface between the existing programmes and devising a common language which could be applied to all of them. "From the feedback that we got from customers, it confirmed what we believed - that we needed a fourth generation language," Temple said.

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OR IS IT WEDNESDAY?

An all-round look at optical discs

Is this the swan-song of our dear old LP?

Three different kinds of optical discs are being built for video, audio and computer applications. The discs look similar, and use the same method of storing information in holes in thin metal films covered by protective layers of plastic.

A laser is focused on the metal film to detect information stored by the presence or absence of holes. Because the holes are so close together (about 4,000 to the inch) large amounts of information can be packed into small areas.

Replaying causes no wear because there is no physical contact and the laser beam is so spread out that the plastic surface that dust and dirt scarcely affect it. However, there are substantial differences between the discs which make each suitable for distinctly different applications.

The Dutch firm Philips have been the driving force in the introduction of all three of these discs, while United Kingdom firms have scarcely been involved.

THE VIDEO DISC is already on the market, under the name Laservision, and is used for replaying video programs on a normal TV set. About an to an hour and a half's play is available from each disc and a great advantage over video tape is the non-degradability of the disc. The gradual loss of quality of a video tape, caused by the rubbing of the detector heads on the surface of the tape, does not occur with the video disc. The interactive video disc can

also find and display a freeze-frame of any one of the approximately 50,000 pictures in a fraction of a second.

Unfortunately there are a number of problems which make its success in the marketplace doubtful. The first is that the domestic market has been cornered by the video cassette recorder (VCR), which has the overwhelming advantage that the consumer can record on to the tape. Coupled with its three-hour playing length, the VCR is now in an unassailable position for home use. Furthermore, the video disc is unsatisfactory for most computer-assisted teaching or applications, because the picture storage is analogue and the customer cannot record on it.

The market that remains for this equipment is therefore mainly in shops and business equipment. The video disc could be used to store parts of the computer-assisted teaching or to demonstrate equipment in shops, all applications where non-degradability and quick access are powerful advantages over video tape.

For the equipment to succeed in any application at least several hundred discs must be manufactured. The discs must not require updating very often, and analogue, rather than digital, storage must be satisfactory.

Philips were the first to issue the equipment in the United Kingdom, although similar machines had been sold and then withdrawn by RCA in the United States. Japanese firms are now,

somewhat hesitantly, following Philip's lead with equipment compatible with Laservision. All in all, with the domestic market lost, the future does not look too bright for the video disc, because the niche that remains may be too small for such a big fish.

THE 12 cm-diameter digital AUDIO DISC is the smallest of the trio (hence the alternative name compact disc) and is intended to replace the long playing record.

Standards have been agreed between all the major hi-fi manufacturers and so there is no prospect of a return of the standards fiasco which ruined the introduction of quadrophonic records.

The one-hour long discs, costing £8 to £10, are played on a machine which plugs directly into existing home hi-fi units. The prime motivation (besides profit) for the introduction is to improve the sound of quality produced. Hiss, rumble and distortion from disc or player are essentially eliminated and high frequencies faithfully reproduced to the limit of human hearing.

The "silver disc" does not degrade with time and can be handled, washed and cleaned without the worry of spoiling the sound. Access to any part of the disc can be obtained rapidly with a remote controller and the resistance to damage of the disc may herald the return of the once despised record autchanger.

The overall result is a cleaner sound from the hi-fi system, with no distortion or interference from

the record or record-player. This clarity shows up problems in other parts of the chain that brings music from the musician into the home. Poor technique in the recording studio is now glaringly obvious, no longer hidden under the audio mush produced by "black discs". British record producers in particular will have to pull their socks up in quality control to succeed in selling audio discs.

The compact disc was released in March to a rapturous reception from critics and its success is not in doubt. The long-playing record will suffer the fate of the old 78rpm disc, and be eliminated as hi-fi equipment is replaced.

Compact disc players start from £450 and are in limited supply, so demand will be restrained for some months, but cut-throat competition from Taiwan and Singapore will soon put an end to the snugness of the small circle of firms presently producing players. The equipment, in mass production, is no more complicated than a cassette recorder and so prices of players, and to a lesser extent records, should drop dramatically.

THE third optical disc is the DIGITAL RECORDING version, intended for use as a computer peripheral and for office document storage. I shall discuss this in a later issue.

Richard Stevens

Dr. Stevens is an image processing scientist.

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Why the risks are increasing for the world's banks

Continued from Page 17 col 1 jeopardizes the ability of the banking and financial communities to adjust to changes in monetary policy, making such policy more difficult to effect."

As worrying, however, are the problems of security and crisis resiliency. For these electronic funds transfer networks were not devised with such huge volumes in mind, yet are changing the practices of international banking at a fundamental level, something which most bankers have been slow to appreciate.

Banking had evolved very slowly over hundreds of years until the computer and Electronic Fund Transfer networks came along. Now EFT is a very

different medium for bankers to operate in: it is not pen and paper with the checks and balances of 400 years built in. It was best summed up by an Italian banker, Renzo de Mattia, who coined what are now known as de Mattia's law of EFT.

"The constraints of time, distance, volume and value do not apply to Electronic Funds Transfer systems."

Kearney discussed some of the key characteristics of these international EFT Network system.

They are very efficient, and this is part of the problem. We now have the ability to move funds rapidly to or away from markets.

The volume and velocity of movements of funds are growing each year. Many of the participants develop large net debit positions during the day, and net settlement for many of these systems occurs at about the same time each day. With rising volumes, the time available for credit, risk, and other human decision making is being steadily shortened.

The systems are interrelated and systemic in nature, which would almost guarantee that they are difficult to understand, and back up capabilities are probably inadequate. This is no more than a polite way of saying that bankers do not understand these systems in the way they under-

stood their former paper and telex systems.

Ignorance also reigns at a different level. Neither bankers nor their regulators are generally aware of the risks to which they are exposed.

These systems are not generally governed by risk allocation conventions, agreements or insurance. Similarly they are not governed by a body of law designed specifically to deal with these issues. There is in other words only minimal international agreement on what action to take if something goes seriously wrong.

Procedures for unwinding settlements over these systems if a participant cannot cover a debit

have not been tested. In the end, the risk if the failure is large may well be that of the central bank's.

Kearney believes it is only a matter of time, and perhaps not so much of it, before something goes seriously wrong. And it may be an honest mistake that sets it off, or it may be fraud.

Kearney should have the last word. He told how a central bank governor put his arm around his shoulders and congratulated him and his colleagues for their outstanding work in the creation of these high value EFT networks. And then in the next breath, he said that they should all be shot for not telling the banks at the beginning about some of the possible consequences.

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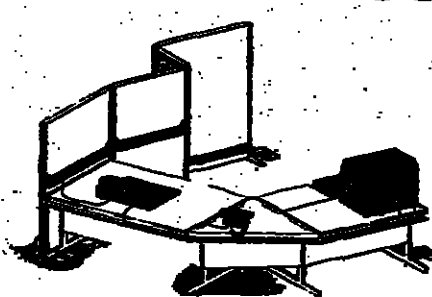
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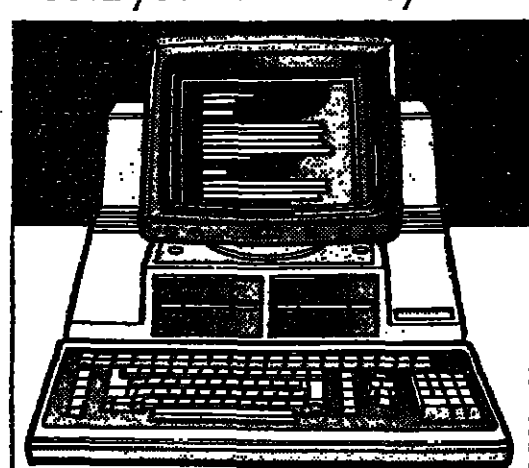
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مكذاب من لاصح

The TV wristwatch: small is beautiful but who will buy it?

By Roy Garner, Tokyo

The TV wristwatch was widely greeted at the time of its launch last December, as more than just another piece of electronic gimmickry emanating from Japan.

The very idea of wearing a TV on one's wrist captured the popular imagination. It struck many as the quintessential high-tech fantasy item, conjuring up images of futuristic worlds where pleasures and information are called forth by fingertip control. Perhaps it is the prominent part which TV itself plays in our everyday lives that makes its effortless mastery so attractive, but wherever the magic does lie its power has not been lost on film makers.

Already James Bond can be seen consulting his customized version in the film "Octopussy", the personal touch being that he can even enjoy his TV in colour, whereas the real thing, at present, only performs in blue and white.

So how is this celebrated product faring nine months on, in the earthly reality of the Japanese consumer market? The maker, Sanyo Seikosha, expresses considerable confidence, and reports that its production level now stands at 3,000 units per month, with sales going well throughout Japan. However, the company declines to give sales figures.

But the man on the street might offer a different story. In fact the average person in Tokyo has very likely never even seen one. When Rika Abe, aged 23, a steel company employee, wore a TV watch to her office in Tokyo recently, her new acquisition was received with very mixed reactions.

Abe's colleagues were all initially impressed saying that the TV watch spectacularly demonstrated technological progress. And it certainly proved to be a great conversation starter.

They agreed, however, that it is "basically useless" and prohibitively expensive. (There are two versions priced at about £308 and £294). They complained that the 1.2-inch screen was too small, and that the watch was uncomfortable to wear for long periods, and too tiny to reveal important details such as the ball in a baseball game. To be fair, however, it should be mentioned that the resolution is good enough to distinguish Japanese language characters.

Another complaint was that the TV watch couldn't capture the atmosphere of the entertainment programmes. Some Seikosha suggested that the majority of viewers principally use the watch to see news programmes. The quality of the picture deteriorates slightly inside build-



Rika Abe

ings, considerably on grains, and completely underground. Abe found the 80-grain watch too heavy for comfort, and the cords which run from the watch to the receiver pack and headphones inconvenient when worn for long periods. "It's a toy", she commented, "perhaps it would be better for use as a video game watch".

JOB SCENE

Sexual blocks to careers

By Richard Sharpe

The more overt sexual discrimination against women in the United Kingdom information technology industry is reasonably easy to challenge. But the covert discrimination which occurs in education and blocks girls from taking up computer science courses is much more difficult to tackle.

It is, however, one reason why the United Kingdom information technology industry is not getting the numbers of skilled staff that it needs.

Girls achieve about 27 per cent of all passes at the O-level standard in computer studies. By the time of A-levels, however, that figure has dropped to 19 per cent in England and Wales, according to a survey published by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Why girls do not take up the subject of computer science is the object of a new research project just announced by the commission.

Dr Lorraine Culley has a year to discover how girls are steered away from computer science and why they choose to do the subject in such small numbers. She will be looking at what the teachers tell girl school students about the subject and how girls react. At the moment she suspects it may be the same problem that exists for the engineering and science subjects in secondary education.

Part of the problem may lie in the material provided with courses and the syllabus, which may be more geared to the expected interests of boys.

"If Dr Culley's research can identify selection mechanisms by which girls opt out or are steered out of the subject then her work will go a long way towards overcoming a big block to getting the right talents into the industry."

An excellent opportunity to increase the numbers of women in the industry and capitalize on latent talent has been lost in the past few years.

Data preparation departments have been demystified by the extension of distributed systems in which the raw data is entered at the operating department instead of being sent to the data processing department for entry. Data preparation clerks, with enormous keyboard skills and a good background idea of what is going on to the data once it has left their part of the department, could easily have been retrained with new skills to support the extension of distributed processing.

Few computer departments took this course of action. Instead they tended to view these women in a stereotypical way as just having some keyboard skills.

By Roger Woolnough

The very 'model' of a retail market

A computer picture of city life



Ronald Harper (right), founder and president of MPSI, examines a market model map of Bath with Ian Simons, European general manager.

To Ronald Harper, a city is something you can put on a few yards of computer tape. Streets and squares, cars and pedestrians, petrol stations and supermarkets, bistros and boutiques, they all get translated into bits and bytes, and become a data base of immense complexity and potential.

Using this information, one of Harper's retail marketing clients can sit at a computer terminal and play "what if" games. Where would the passing trade go if that petrol station was closed? Would it pay to open a fast-food outlet on that corner? What would happen if a competitor changed his prices?

Simulations of this kind can save millions for retailers, and Harper has built a flourishing business providing them with the means to carry them out. The company which he founded in 1970, The PSI Group Inc of Tulsa, Oklahoma, has seen revenues rise by over 340 per cent in the last three years, reaching \$8.95m in 1982. For the first half of the current year, revenue was up 60 per cent on a year earlier.

MPSI has been operating in Europe since 1977, and last June an operation was opened in Britain by the Bristol-based British subsidiary, Management Planning Systems (UK) Ltd.

"We have modelled over 150 major conurbations in every country in Western Europe except Italy, Spain and Portugal," says Harper.

"We have done 72 of the 74 major cities in North America. The Bristol centre will handle Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Asia is our next target."

MPSI's system of producing a computer model of a retail market is an ingenious example of applications software. No one else, Harper believes, offers anything quite like it.

Ronald Harper trained as an electronics engineer, and in the early 1960s went to work as a designer with Philips Petroleum. He became involved in computing, and took graduate courses in statistics.

Then he studied for a business degree, majoring in marketing and operations research. "When I was at the university I did research on site selection, looked at all the literature, and interviewed real estate managers and retailers responsible for selecting sites. The only common denominator was that they all wanted a map."

But the experience did not lead at once to the business which MPSI now runs. Harper joined another oil company, in Tulsa, and gained more experience using computers for operations research.

When the company asked him to move to another location, Harper resigned and started to work as a consultant. Getty Oil signed him up to assess geographical areas and help build a site selection model.

It was pioneering of the toughest sort. Harper had no capital, and worked 90 to 100 hours a week for 18 months. He was still some way from the concept which was to evolve into MPSI.

"We worked as a site selection company," he explains. "Then in the middle of the 70s a client said it would really help him if we could supply all the demographic data too."

Harper immediately saw the potential, but it took two more years of research and development before the software was ready. Since then the investment has paid off handsomely.

MPSI provides the ability to build data bases which are used to construct a mathematical model of a retail market. By simulating changes in supply and demand, the user can forecast the effect of those changes on sales volume.

The market model might be an entire city, or it could be a single site and its immediate surroundings.

Once the data base has been established, the software allows it to be used in a variety of ways. As well as helping to select new sites, the model can identify retail outlets which should be closed or rebuilt. It can be forecast the effect of price cuts or increases, and of other competitive strategies such as dropping brand names, and offering discounts or promotional gifts.

It can even assess the benefits of retailing complementary products and services on adjacent sites, like running a late-night grocery store next to a petrol station.

Ian Simons, MPSI's European general manager, points out that each client's needs are different, so a computer model of a city will vary in every case. To a petroleum retailer, Greater Lon-

don has characteristics which will not match those sought by, say a fast-food chain.

As a result, MPSI can go over the same ground many times. Atlanta and Houston are probably the company's most frequently surveyed cities in the world, in Europe, Copenhagen is top of the list.

Building the data base falls into two parts. On the demographics side, information is collected from aerial photographs, maps, census returns, car registrations, and traffic counts. For a city, this is done street by street.

Next the study locates and surveys every outlet for the particular project in hand - petrol retailing, fast food, supermarkets, banks.

All the demographic and retail data are processed to produce a computer model that describes the market place, and tells the client how consumers in that area are making decisions and selecting where to shop.

Does it work? Harper produces some impressive testimonials. One US client expected that the initial cost would be recovered 10 times through more efficient use of capital and better marketing tactics.

Another, the head of a major petroleum company, commented: "If it prevents me from making one retailing error, whether it's a pump or a petrol station, the system has paid for itself."

One thing that Harper never does is offer advice. "We provide the software and the data so the clients can make the most effective decisions," he says. "All companies do not have the same philosophies. Two firms could take the same data base, and draw different conclusions from it."

It is one of the many things Ronald Harper learned during his long apprenticeship. "I found out as a youth," he adds, "that you don't tell someone a lot older and smarter than you are how to run his business."

Calculated to beat the repeats

As many as two-thirds of the prescriptions a GP writes could be repeats, says Dr Norman Stoddart, the Royal College of General Practitioners' ICI Computer Fellow.

These repeat prescriptions are for just 15 per cent of a GP's patients. But because they involve much repetitive work, it can lead to the possibility of compounded errors. And it can often produce a situation with the doctor not seeing the patient regularly, writes Alan Burns.

Or many practices, says Dr Stoddart, it would be worth installing even a small business computer just to achieve these benefits on repeats.

The information is straight forward for even the novice computer user to put on computer but it can reap the widest of benefits in terms of crucial monitoring of the chronically sick, general patient compliance on prescriptions, staff time-saving and as the software becomes available, programmes can be adapted to produce deeper

analysis of drug interactions and contraindications.

Dr Stoddart, in his capacity as the ICI Computer Fellow, is spending six months researching the application of computers in primary care, before giving a series of talks to the Royal College's regional faculty meetings.

Dr Stoddart makes himself available for advice to all GPs on medical computing matters and likes to hear from GPs on computer problems they have encountered.

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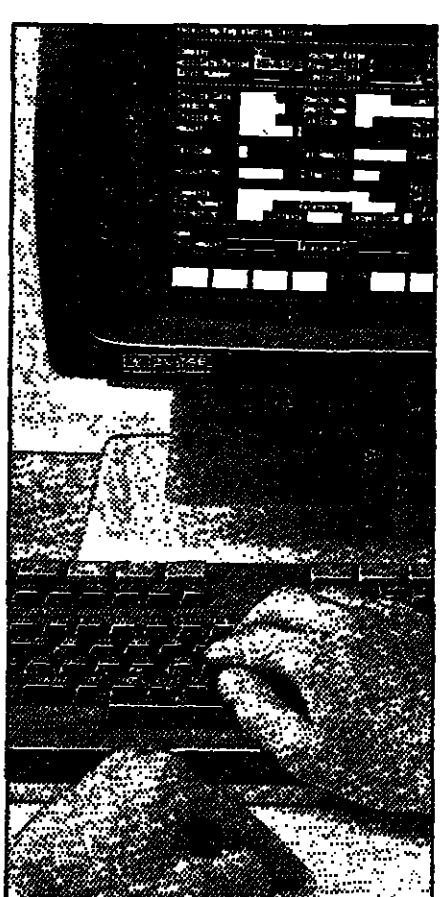
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UK Events
 Kent Apple Village, Stour Centre, Ashford, Kent, September 18-21.
 Computer Open Day Exhibition, Central Hotel, Glasgow, September 22.
 Microcomputers in Business, Warwick University, Coventry, September 27-28.
 ICP one-day workshop, City Conference Centre, 78 Mark Lane, London EC3, September 28.
 Personal Computer World Show, Barbican Centre, London, September 29-October 2.
 Computer Fair, The Sir Frederic Osborn School, Welwyn Garden City, October 2.
Overseas
 Australian Computer Exhibition, Melbourne, Australia, September 18-19.
 International Peripheral Equipment & Software Exposition, Moscone Centre, Anaheim, USA, September 19-20.
 Computers, Limerick, Republic of Ireland, September 20-22.
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CYCLING

Birth of the star spangled challenge

By John Wilcockson

health." Since then, this fair-haired Californian, whose father sells real estate in Carson City, Nevada, has been quietly making a fortune out of the sport he enjoys.

Cairns and Starr win after delay

and ABC already plans to televise in full the road races in the 1984 Olympic Games.

Millichip's FIFA move

There is no team representation in Britain, and this is one of the reasons no medals were won by British riders during the past two weeks. It was significant that the only British riders to finish the amateur men's race last Saturday were Joseph McLoughlin and Neil Martin, both of whom have won international stage races this year.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Money no problem for Invicta

Medals table

United States	6	5	5
Soviet Union	3	3	2
East Germany	3	3	3
Switzerland	2	2	2
West Germany	1	1	1
France	1	1	1
Italy	1	1	1
Australia	1	1	1
Denmark	1	0	0
Sweden	1	0	0
Japan	1	0	0
Netherlands	0	3	1
Czechoslovakia	0	1	1
Ireland	0	0	1
Norway	0	0	1
Poland	0	0	0

German riders disqualified from one silver and one bronze medal.

By Kent
Kent Invicta's severe financial problems, caused primarily by debt

forthcoming. VAT returns would help and so too would the appointment of new directors. The

plight was mainly a result of better forecast attendances at K

September 14. is: Leigh v Widnes
Helens v Warrington; Salford
Barrow v Swinton v Oldham

California Angels	63	73	.463
Minnesota Twins	59	80	.420
Angelos Dodgers	60	60	.500
Seattle Mariners	51	85	.375

St	68	68	.507
v	67	67	.500
	62	74	.456

shots): 1. S. Mekarov (USSR). 583; 2. (EG). 581; 3. G. Avramenko (USSR). 579.
Running boer (junior man's teams, 60 min): 1. Hungary. 1744; 2. USSR. 1744; 3. Hungary. 1744.

198: 3. J. Phelsson (Swe). 197. Fin (men's teams): 1. Hungary, 1784; 2. F.

Welpen: 581.
 St: 1.
 St: 3.
 St: 3.

USSR,
in the
present,

Legal Appointments

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